

## THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

**Person to person**  
How unemployment puts job applicants under the microscope.

**Sporting vanity**  
The social perils of gym and jogging, by Laurie Taylor.

**All for Alliance?**  
Peter Kellner disputes the voters will back a coalition.

**Competing for cash**  
The £5m athletics circuit that produces poor quality competition.

## Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize was shared between three winners yesterday. Mr Peter D. Trauman, Mr Roderick Webster and Mrs Denise Parkhurst, all of London, each received £1,333. Portfolio list page 16; how to play, back page information service.

## Moves to stop Powell Bill on embryos

Supporters of Mr Enoch Powell's Bill for the protection of human embryos are being asked by ministers to vote against the procedural motion designed to save the Bill.

Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, will argue that if the motion goes ahead it will wreck the established rules for the use of private members' time. Page 2.

## Zimbabwe sets election dates

Zimbabwe has set dates for its first general election since independence. The 34,000 white electors will vote on June 27 and the 2.9 million blacks on July 1 and 2.

## Malta loses

The International Court of Justice has redrawn Malta's maritime boundary with Libya. 18 miles closer to the Mediterranean island. Page 7.

## Papandreu axe

Mr Papandreu is to cut the Greek Cabinet from 53 to 10 ministers after his convincing victory in Sunday's general elections. Page 7.

## Staying behind

Israel's Prime Minister has confirmed that an unspecified number of troops will stay in Lebanon after this week's final Israeli withdrawal. Page 7.

## Pit talks

Hopes of settling the 18-day overtime ban by pit deputies rest on talks today at the London headquarters of the National Coal Board. Page 2.

## Solidarity trial

Poland's most important Solidarity trial for more than a year is turning into a war of attrition between the authorities and the three accused dissidents. Page 8.

## Pound at \$1.30

Sterling briefly rose above \$1.30 for the first time in nine months, before closing at \$1.2917 - a gain of 52 points on the day. Page 17.

## Gower revival

David Gower, England's captain, returned to form with a century at Lord's as his side won their one-day match against Australia by eight wickets. Page 26.

## Leader page 13

Letters: On embryo, from Dr R. J. Boughton, and others; European Convention efforts, from Mr F. Silvester, MP.

Leading articles: Fowler review; Greek elections; Lord George-Brown.

Features: pages 10-12.

Sarah Hogg analyses Norman Fowler's reform package; Washington's unlikely alliance with Addis Ababa; Miles Kingston's limerick winners. Spectrum: tuning in to world TV. Fashion: have wardrobe, will travel.

## Computer Horizons

Can Sinclair ride the storm? Europe beats US on satellites; Time bomb threat from disgruntled employees; Computer recession takes its toll. Pages 26-25.

## Home News

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## Kinnock refrains from blanket repeal commitment

# Fowler welfare review softer than forecast

● Proposed changes in the welfare state would give extra cash to low income workers during the build-up to the next election.

● A new computerized system for delivering benefits and a new April uprating date will be introduced in 1987.

● Mr Neil Kinnock condemned the proposals and reaffirmed that a Labour Government would restore State earnings-related pensions.

● Conservatives were relieved that Mr Fowler is to allow unemployment benefit to continue to be paid for one year.

● The Institute of Directors welcomed the Green Paper but said it lacked the wide appeal of the Beveridge model.

● Help the Aged says that two million pensioners could lose heating allowances in exchange for a small rise in basic benefit.

By Anthony Bevins and Richard Evans

Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, gave the Commons an outline plan yesterday of his much-heralded overhaul of the welfare state.

It included a 15-year phase-out of the state earnings related pension scheme; replacement of supplementary benefits by a scheme of income support; family credits in pay packets for low-income working families; a £500 million phased cutback in housing benefit; the possibility of flexible retirement between 60 and 70; and a new social fund to help people in special difficulties.

But some Conservative backbenchers were convinced last night that the most significant and telling element of the package was the date for change: the build-up to the next election.

Extra cash help for low-income working families is to be paid out in the expected pre-election Budget of 1987.

Mr Fowler said that the new, computerized system for delivering benefits would be introduced with a new uprating date of April 1987. After this year's customary November uprating of benefits, there will be another uprating in July next year before the introduction of the new scheme in the 1987 Budget which will, for the first time, bring benefits and taxes into one consolidated package.

Labour as well as Conservative MPs were in little doubt last night that the Government would use that opportunity to win votes.

Mr Fowler told the Commons that he could not give figures and costs until the level of new benefits had been decided.

But his department said that there would be long-term cuts in public spending on Serps, which would have added £23 billion to the pensions bill in the first 30 years of the next century.

There would also be economies in administering the £40 billion social security system, which is run by 120,000 officials: the new system of income support, replacing supplementary benefit, would be designed to deliver the same overall help; and family credits for the low-income groups would give greater cash help to people who have suffered from the poverty trap, under which they have forfeited extra earnings, and the unemployment trap which sometimes meant they were better off on the dole.

Conservative MPs gave a markedly strong welcome to Mr Fowler's package. There was some considerable relief that the minister had pulled away from some of the earlier suggestions, particularly the possibility that unemployment benefit might have been limited to six months.

Mr Fowler confirmed that that benefit would continue to be paid for a year.

Mr Neil Kinnock told a Westminster press conference that Mr Fowler's Green Papers represented "a cheap and nasty strategy from a cheating and nasty Government." But he held back from committing a future Labour government to blanket repeal of the social security reforms which are to be the subject of legislation in the next parliamentary session.

However, he repeated a party promise to restore the state earnings-related pension scheme, and added: "We are absolutely committed to the principle of, from each according to his means, to each according to his needs."

Together with Mr Meacher and Civil Service union leaders, the Labour leader concentrated his attack on the absence of figures in Mr Fowler's statement which, he said, demonstrated the Government was ashamed of what it was doing.

Mr Meacher produced various estimates of the alleged cuts, ranging from £1 billion to £2 billion.

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## THE MAIN PROPOSALS

**Pensions:** The State earnings-related pension scheme is to be phased out by about the year 2000. Men aged over 50 and women over 45 will remain in the scheme. Those younger will be transferred to private occupational or personal pensions, over the three years 1987-88 to 1989-90. No existing pensioners will be affected and existing rights under Serps will be honoured. Pensioners' Christmas bonus will stay.

**Retirement age:** Unchanged, but the Government is inviting views on a flexible "decade of retirement" between ages 60 and 70.

**Housing Benefit:** Savings of about £500 million on the £4.2 billion scheme, with all seven million recipients having to pay at least 20 per cent rates.

**Supplementary benefit:** To be abolished and replaced with a new system of income support with lower rates for people aged under 25 but premium rates for pensioners, lone parents, the long-term sick and disabled and families. Existing extra weekly payments, including heating additions, will be abolished to help pay higher rates of basic benefit.

**Poverty trap:** A new family credit to replace family income supplement, paid through the pay packet rather than DHSS, to enhance take-home pay for families in low paid work, avoiding worst effects of poverty trap.

**Child benefit:** Will remain, but may not be uprated fully in line with inflation to help pay for family credit and family premium.

**Death grant:** To be abolished, funeral expenses being met through new social fund.

**Maternity grant:** Up from £25 to about £75, but limited to low income families.

**Earnings rules:** Commitment to abolish pensioners' earnings rule. Couples unemployed two years, single parents and disabled to be allowed to earn £15 a week instead of £4 without loss of benefit.

**Students:** Commitment to remove right to housing and supplementary benefit following green paper on student support.

By Our Social Service Correspondent

The TUC yesterday said the social security proposals were "bad news for everybody". The Institute of Directors welcomed the Green Paper but said it had halted the "slide to chaos" in the welfare state.

The Institute said however that while the phasing out of the state earnings related pension scheme (Serps) was "a major step forward", the Green Paper lacked "the clarity, simplicity and wide appeal of the Beveridge model". Contributory and non-contributory benefits and universal payments to rich and poor remained "jumbled together".

The TUC said the ending of Serps was "like mugging being called a redistribution of wealth". The proposals would cut pensions people receive in retirement, reduce help with housing and other costs for many working families and replace universal grants for birth and death with means-tests. "The Government has produced no simplification of the system. Quite the reverse," it said.

Agge Concern said pensioners were being made "sacrificial lambs" while cuts in housing benefit might affect nearly 4,500,000 pensioners. Earning the death grant was "cruel and insensitive".

Help the Aged said that at first sight the two million pensioners totally dependent on state benefits looked set to lose their heating allowances and have their housing benefit trimmed in return for a small increase in their basic benefit.

The Tory Reform group said the proposals would produce small savings and a great political controversy. "Neither is necessary".

The Royal National Institute for the Blind said it was "deeply suspicious" of the proposals with large numbers of the poorest blind people set to lose a £5.35 a week extra supplementary benefit payment, but with no indication of how much they would get from the disabled people's premium.

He was also addressed in fluent Mandarin by an officer of the Second Battalion, Grenadier Guards, which mounted the guard of honour and played the Chinese national anthem. According to a member of the Chinese delegation, the officer, Major Charles Wiggin, performed extremely well as he invited Mr Zhao to inspect the guard.

About 15 protesters chanting slogans in a demonstration organized by the Tibetan community in Britain, struck the only discordant note as Mr Zhao, in a dark, pin-stripe suit, strode up and down the ranks of scarlet and gold.

He was greeted at the Whitehall ceremony by Mrs Thatcher, who escorted him through the arch into Downing Street for a courtesy call several hours before his more extended visit in the late afternoon.

Today he will be the guest at a Mansion House luncheon, while his Foreign Minister, Mr Wu Xueqian, has talks with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary.

Continued on page 2, col 8



Mr Zhao with Mrs Thatcher at Whitehall yesterday. Photograph: John Manning.

## Britain and China sign nuclear deal

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

Britain and China signed agreements on nuclear and economic co-operation yesterday during more than two hours of talks between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, at 10 Downing Street.

Britain's contracts with China were expanding more and rapidly than with any other nation, Mrs Thatcher said at the dinner which followed. She went on to pay handsome compliments to Mr Zhao on the modernization programme which his government is putting into effect.

Both premiers also made clear their wishes to extend contracts still further, in cultural, scientific and educational fields and, perhaps most of all, in trade, which, Mrs Thatcher said, had doubled between 1982 and 1984.

Earlier, Mr Zhao, the highest-ranking Chinese leader to come to Britain for six years, enjoyed the rare tribute of a special guard of honour in the forecourt of the Foreign Office after his arrival for a week-long tour.

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Continued on page 2, col 8

## Friends and foes salute Brown

By Julian Haviland  
Political Editor

A warmth of affection far beyond the conventions of respect due to the dead shone through the many tributes paid yesterday, by political friends and former foes alike, to Lord George-Brown, former Foreign Secretary and deputy leader of the Labour Party, who died, aged 70, on Sunday night.

His energy at the height of his political powers, his imagination his courage were recalled by those who knew him in government; but his warmth and humanity were at the top of everyone's list.

At the same time, many who worked closely with him had stories of his quirkiness, his mercurial temper, his erratic outspokenness, which so often made him a difficult colleague. Above all, in every recollection there was that recognition of promise unfulfilled, which troubles all students of Brown's career.

Continued on back page, col 2

## 11 Tamils sent out of Britain

By George Hill

Tamils seeking refuge from persecution in Sri Lanka have already been deported from Britain since the Government imposed new restrictions on their entry last week, the Home Secretary, Mr Leon Brittan, told the House of Commons.

But none had been sent to Sri Lanka itself. Ten had been returned to other European countries, and one to India, he said, answering questions after making a statement defending the new restrictions.

In the case of genuine refugees, Britain would honour to the full its obligations under the international convention on the treatment of refugees, Mr Brittan said. Parliament, page 4.

Progress towards solution, page 8.

## Thatcher says no excuse for riot

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Prime Minister, announcing in the Commons yesterday measures being taken against football hooliganism "to put our own house in order", said that the radical changes were needed if the game was to survive as a spectator sport.

After her statement to MPs on last Wednesday's tragedy in Brussels, Mrs Margaret Thatcher said: "There are no excuses for what happened. We must not try to find any."

Throughout the lengthy and solemn exchanges about the disaster at the European Cup Final which resulted in 39 deaths Mrs Thatcher placed the emphasis on the prevention of, and severe punishment for, what she said was often "calculated, mindful" violence. She rejected suggestions by Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour

leader, and Mr Mervyn Rees, the former Labour home secretary, that the Government should inquire into the causes of the violence in society of which hooliganism was part.

Mrs Thatcher, who said there was a national sense of grief and shame over the events, announced the following measures:

● A Bill to be law before next season to ban possession of alcohol at football grounds, and on football coaches and trains.

● Installation of closed circuit television to be speeded up. The Football Trust is to give £500,000 initially to give cover at more than 30 grounds, in

addition to the 11 subject to experiments.

● Urgent talks with the football authorities about the introduction of membership cards, on a club or national basis, more all-ticket matches; stricter controls, and sometimes a ban, on visiting spectators.

● Police to be given power under public order legislation next session to limit size of attendance at matches where they expect trouble.

● Poppet inquiry into Bradford fire to take into account lessons learnt from Brussels.

● British police forces to help Brussels authorities to bring to justice offenders at last Wednesday's match, and assistance if they require extradition.

## Housing complex smashed in Tehran's worst stair raid

From Robert Fisk

Tehran

Iraqi jets have staged their most savage attack on the Iranian capital since the Gulf War began five years ago.

Yesterday armed Revolutionary Guards and hospital workers were digging into the bombed ruins of a civilian housing complex in the north of Tehran.

The air raid, which killed or wounded up to 200 people, was the work of two high altitude bombers, believed to be Soviet-made Il-28s. They dropped two high explosive bombs on to the suburb of Gish, which tore through five

apartment blocks in devastating explosions that could be heard across the city.

It was the first time the Iraqis had used bombs in their air raids on the capital, their jets had previously fired only rockets over Tehran, and they brought the "war of the cities" to an even more brutal stage.

While Iranian news broadcasts were yesterday still trying to encourage morale here with reports of the two missile attacks on Baghdad on Saturday and Sunday, ambulances in Tehran were carrying to hospitals people who had been buried in the rubble of their homes for more than 12 hours.

At least 36 civilians were killed, one estimate put the figure at 50, after the Iraqi planes entered Tehran air space just before midnight on Sunday night. Iranian anti-aircraft fire, both tracer and shells, exploded impotently some 6,000ft beneath the Iraqi aircraft, which released their bombs indiscriminately on to Gish.

From a rooftop of a building to the south, I saw two huge flashes of crimson light over the district. They were followed by thunderous explosions that shook buildings over a radius of more than a mile.

The scene of the bombing yesterday morning was for many Tehranis a shattering one. One four-storey block of flats containing 16 families had been literally blown to pieces. A little girl in the building had been celebrating her birthday during the evening, and many children were staying the night with her family when one bomb destroyed the girl's home.

One man in the street outside was cursing Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president, for the slaughter, although local anger embraced more than Iraq's Baathist regime.

Several Revolutionary Guards fired their rifles in the

air during the morning, and another man explained abruptly: "Many people are angry, the Pasadaran (revolutionary guards) have arrested many people here. I don't believe you will be able to write the truth about what has happened, you must go."

In March and April there were 13 air raids on Tehran. Now, there are 13 a week, sometimes three in one day. Only one Iraqi jet has so far been shot down, during a daylight raid in March, when the Iranians are believed to have used an American-built F-14 fighter to destroy it.



# Biffen will urge MPs to vote against Powell embryo Bill

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Parliamentary supporters of Mr Enoch Powell's controversial Bill for the protection of human embryos are being asked by ministers to desert his cause in a decisive Commons vote on Friday.

Although the Government is neutral on the Bill's merits, and its members are divided, Mr John Biffen, Leader of the Commons, has decided that he must use all his powers to dissuade MPs from taking the only step which could now save the Bill.

He will argue that the novel procedural vote planned for Friday, devised by Mr Powell and his supporters, will, if successful, wreck the established rules for the use of private members' time, and that backbenchers' rights will suffer.

The vote arises on a motion in the name of Mr Andrew Bowden, Conservative MP for Brighton Kemptown, an ally of Mr Powell's who has secured the opportunity in the regular ballot for private members' motions.

The form of the motion, for which Commons proceduralists can find no precedent, would allow debate on the Bill to continue indefinitely, if need be through Sunday and Monday. It would destroy the established and only weapon available to a determined minority — the power to deny a controversial measure adequate time.

Mr Biffen was questioned in the Commons yesterday by Mr Peter Shore, for the Opposition,

about "this dangerous precedent", and by a Conservative, Mr Nicholas Baker, who supports the Powell Bill but wanted the Commons committee on procedures to look at the "procedural loophole".

Mr Biffen reserved his position until Friday, when he will seek to put the case against the Bowden-Powell manoeuvre in a 10-minute speech after Mr Powell, a formidable proceduralist and debater, has spoken in favour.

His case, in brief, will be that the precedent which would be set if Mr Powell's side won, would be so far-reaching that it ought not to be introduced incidentally.

He will argue that, no matter how great the merits of the Bill, which he happens to support, the effect of the Bowden motion would be to remove the only defences against all sorts of interests which opportunistic groups of MPs may wish to attack. That may be right, but it should not be done without proper study.

It was clear yesterday that Mr Biffen's anxieties were rapidly spreading among Conservative supporters of the Powell Bill, and were being deliberately spread, if not by Government Whips, then by their surrogates.

Powell supporters were being invited to contemplate a precedent which might in future keep them at Westminster night and day, through Saturday and Sunday, several times a year.

Letters, page 13

## Poll tax electoral suicide, AMA says

By Hugh Clayton  
Local Government Correspondent

Poll taxes would hit deprived inner cities more than leafy shores, according to the Association of Metropolitan Authorities.

The tax could exceed rates in the cities and be below them in the countryside. But the highest poll tax would be in the City of London where it could reach £9,000 a head, it said.

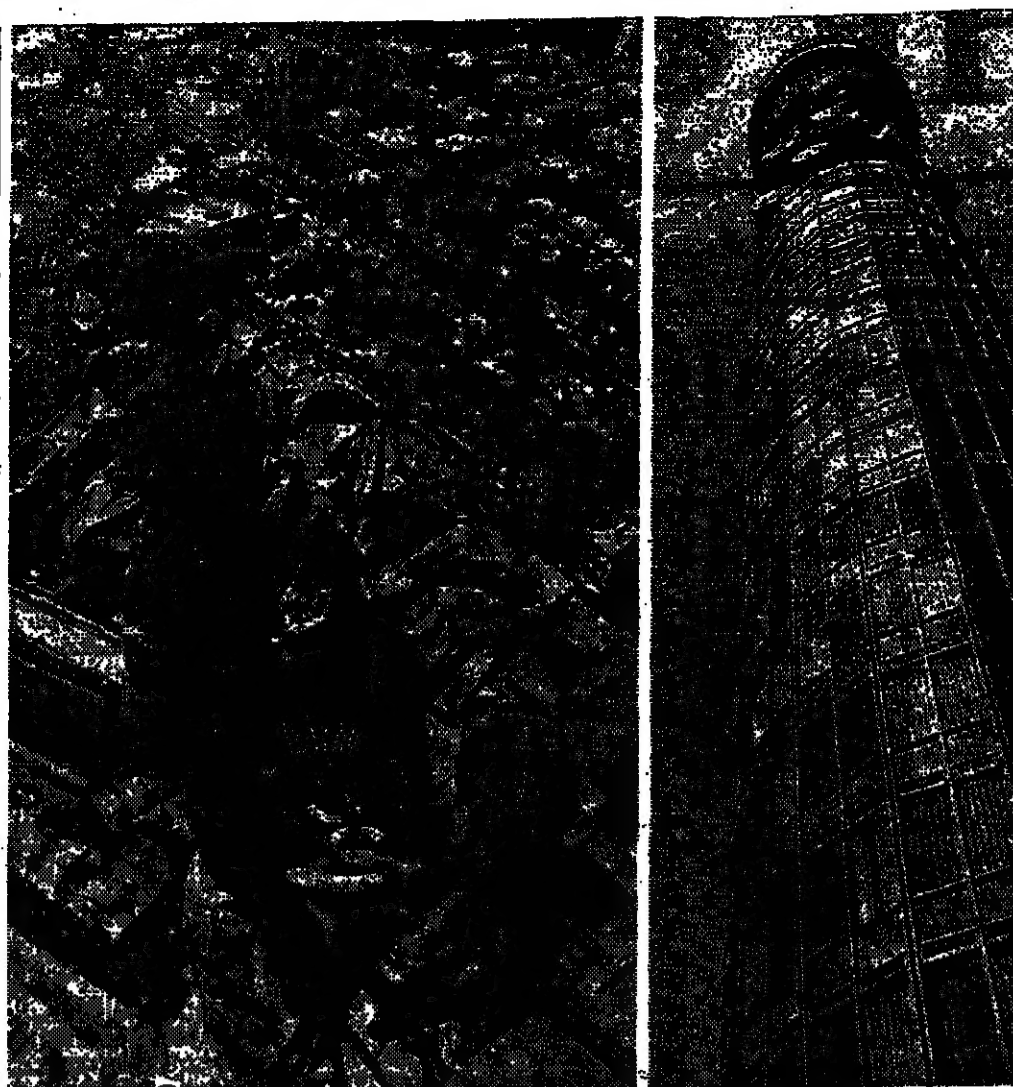
Mr Jack Layden, Labour chairman of the association, said that the only fair and workable way of raising local revenue was to supplement rates with a local income tax. "If the Government are serious about replacing domestic rates with a poll tax then they are inviting electoral suicide," he said.

The Labour-dominated association, which represents many inner city councils, said that the cost of a poll tax would depend on possible changes in government grant distribution and separate reforms of the business rate.

The association based its calculation on the assumption that if a council wanted to spend more than the Government thought it needed to spend, it would have to raise the whole of the extra money from a local poll tax.

On that basis the cost of a poll tax in most counties would range from £122 to £239 a year for each adult.

The lowest London borough would be Croydon, at just over £200 a head, while Wandsworth, Westminster and Kensington would all be about £420. The highest London figures would be in some of the most deprived areas, including Southwark, Hackney and Lambeth, at well over £500 a head.



Dropping zone: Colour Sergeant Dave Ford, of Exmouth, Devon, preparing to abseil 484 feet down the Telecom Tower in central London yesterday. He was a member of a seven-man team which raised £10,000 for the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street, London. The event was organized by the Royal Marines which provided five members of the team making the descent from the former observation tower. They were led over the parapet by Police Constable Gill Boyd, of Cambridge, whose record descent took just under four minutes. He and a former police colleague have raised thousands of pounds for the London hospital where his son Thomas has been a patient for five years. Photographs: Bill Warhurst and John Voss

## Sinn Fein wins injunction

From Richard Ford, Belfast

Two Provisional Sinn Fein councillors won a High Court injunction yesterday, forbidding a "loyalist"-controlled local authority from holding a committee meeting designed to exclude them from involvement in council business.

The first meeting of a special committee set up by Craigavon Borough Council in Co Armagh was banned by Mr Justice Hutton less than four hours before it was due to be held.

The judge also gave the two councillors leave to apply for a full hearing into the legality of the decision of last week's council meeting, during which Unionists set up the committee in an attempt to isolate the PSF.

The full hearing of the action will be in the High Court, Belfast, on Monday.

Granting the injunction at the end of a 13-minute hearing during which Mr Brian Kerr, for the councillors, had applied for what he described as "dracoman relief", the judge said that it had been set in open court because it was an issue of public interest.

There was a much greater risk of injustice if he permitted the meeting to be held and it was later found that the special committee was unlawful.

At last week's council meeting Unionists united with the aim of excluding Mr Brendan Curran and Mr Brian McCann,

both supporters of the Provisional IRA's armed struggle, from all council business.

The Democratic Unionist Party proposed that the newly-elected councillors sit at a separate table, and when they did not move a uniformed Royal Ulster Constabulary officer escorted them from the chamber. In their absence the Unionists voted through a proposal to set up a committee within the council, through which most of the authority's business would be conducted with Sinn Fein excluded from membership.

After the hearing Mr Curran said that they were satisfied with the result so far.

## Hopes for talks to end Nacods ban

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Hopes of settling the 18-day overtime ban by pit deputies rest on peace talks today at the headquarters of the National Coal Board in London.

The 10-member executive of the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shovelers yesterday decided to seek "clarification" of a message from Mr James Cowan, the board's deputy chairman, aimed at bringing closer a new procedure for reviewing collieries the board wants to close.

Although the statement did not go all the way to satisfy the demands on pit closures, it was felt that it brought the prospect of agreement nearer.

Mr Peter McNeisty, Nacods general secretary, said that Mr Cowan's statement was "some way" to meeting the union's demand that the "status quo" be maintained while a pit went through the procedure.

But he added a warning: "We have been in this game before. We need a lot more clarity than there is in this letter."

The statement affirms that where all three unions oppose a closure, the board will take no measures to run down the pit. But the statement, sent at the end of last week, is understood to make clear that where opposition is not unanimous, the board would retain its right to transfer men while maintaining the fabric of the colliery.

Northumberland area miners revealed plans to serve a writ on the board over its proposal allegedly to close Bates colliery, Blyth, outside the established colliery review procedure.

Manpower in the board's profitable North Yorkshire area will be reduced by 1,000 to 11,500 over the next 12 months, under proposals announced to the unions by the area director, Mr Michael Eaton, yesterday.

Dean Hancock, aged 21, one of the two South Wales miners jailed for life for murdering a taxi driver during the pit strike, has lodged notice of appeal against his conviction. Parliament, page 4

## 150 clinical academic posts lost

By Richard Evans  
Lobby Reporter

More than 150 academic posts have been lost in university medical schools and faculties in England and Wales after years of cash cuts, it was disclosed yesterday.

The overall position is marginally better than feared, but still potentially serious, the Commons social services select committee said in a report.

While the effect on medical services and patient care had not been grave, it had been more than "marginal", as predicted by the Government in November 1982.

"The full effect of the cuts have been masked by health authority support for some posts lost, which can only have come about at the cost of other services."

Medicals employed by universities make a significant contribution to National Health Service clinical work and provide about 5 per cent of hospital patient care in Britain.

## Passengers saved by bus driver

Judith Dale, aged 35, a coach driver, of Taylor Hill, Huddersfield, steered her 16 passengers to safety when the bus brakes failed on a steep moorland road near the village of Strines near Sheffield.

Eight passengers were taken to the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield. Seven were treated for minor injuries and another detained for observation.

South Yorkshire police accident investigators were making a detailed inspection yesterday of the wrecked coach, which ended up on the edge of a 100-ft drop.

They were also examining a car, empty at the time, that the coach rammed before it hit a tree.

After realising the brakes had failed, the driver put the coach into a lower gear to slow it down.

It was on its way back to Halifax from a sightseeing trip to Derbyshire.

## School strike threat to exempted areas

By Lacy Hodges, Education Correspondent

The 42 local education authorities which have been exempted from strike action by the National Union of Teachers because they have signed statements sympathetic to the teachers' pay case could soon be back on the hit list.

Mr Fred Jarvis, the union's general secretary, has asked local divisions to check what action their authorities have taken to implement the statements of support for teachers.

"The union expects the local education authorities concerned to furnish evidence that they have made strong and active representations to their appropriate national local authority associations," he said yesterday. It also expects them to have put pressure on their representative in the Burnham negotiating committee and their local MPs.

"Unless the authorities can furnish evidence of action in

support of the declaration, they will again be considered for selective strike action," he said.

The decision of the biggest teachers' union to monitor adherence to the statements comes after a decision by the second biggest teachers' union, the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, to abandon its no-strike deals with five authorities on the ground that they are not worth the paper they are written on.

Privately the employers' side has expressed scepticism about the value of the statements which have nevertheless been embarrassing. By signing them, authorities were publicly rejecting the negotiating position of their own side because they agreed to put aside a reference to arbitration.

The NUT begins its twelfth week of selective strikes today

## RIBA tackles 'madhouse' of indemnity insurance

By Charles Knevit, Architecture Correspondent

The Royal Institute of British Architects is entering the insurance market with the Bowring group as brokers, in an attempt to "bring stability to the madhouse market" of professional indemnity insurance for its members.

Private firms of architects have faced increases in annual premiums of as much as 300 per cent in the past two years, partly as a result of instructions by government departments to pursue, to the bitter end, claims for building defects.

A joint company is to be set up by the end of the year and the institute proposes to make its cover mandatory for members, if necessary.

The main broker at present is the ABF insurance agency,

which is independent of the RIBA. Negotiations on the value of the business have broken down, after a bid by the RIBA to take it over, although further talks are planned.

The Property Services Agency, part of the Department of the Environment, has insisted that its private professional consultants should take out a minimum £250,000, and a maximum of £5 million, cover on an each-and-every-claim basis, and there is indefinite liability.

Other government departments and agencies, among them the Department of Health and Social Security and the Housing Corporation, are following the PSA's lead.

## 'White elephant' attack on £60m centre rebuffed

Government sources have denied reports that the new International Conference Centre under construction at Broad Sanctuary, opposite Westminster Abbey and within sight of the Houses of Parliament, will be a "white elephant" (our Architecture Correspondent writes).

Occupancy rates will be in excess of 70 per cent within three years of its completion next summer, they claim.

Criticism has been levelled at the apparent mounting cost of the centre, which has a maximum capacity of 2,200, and at its design, by the

architects, Powell, Moya and Partners.

In June 1978 the Commons was told the centre would cost £15 million but it is expected to reach more than £60 million, including furniture and fittings, when it opens in time for Britain's presidency of the EEC on July 1, 1986. The official building cost is put at \$46.4 million.

Mr Dale Campbell-Savours, Labour MP for Wokingham, recently described the centre as a "horrible eyesore" just off Parliament Square, and "totally out of tune with architectural thinking in the 1980s".

## MP's agent was devious, court told

Actions by Mr Charles Hubbard, agent for Mr Austin Mitchell, the Labour MP for Great Grimsby during the last general election were described yesterday as "cunning, devious and dishonest".

Mr Hubbard appeared at Lincoln Crown Court where he denied charges of forgery, perjury and two counts of making false declarations.

Mr Nigel Baker, for the prosecution, said that Mr Hubbard overpaid the permitted expenses allowed by law on electioneering in 1983 and then tried to conceal the action.

The amount allowed was £4,295 and Mr Hubbard, who saw Mr Mitchell narrowly retain his seat, declared that he had underpaid by a small amount.

Mr Baker said that in fact he had overpaid because he had not included a £320 bill for two sets of the Labour newspaper, *Grimsby Clarion*.

Mr Hubbard, of Laceby Road, Grimsby, made the newspaper receipts "disappear" by splitting them up and saying that the amount was expenditure for the local council elections held a month earlier, Mr Baker said.

He said the matter had come to light after complaints from Mr Paul Gemmery, the SDP/Alliance candidate, and resulted in a hearing at the High Court in London in which Mr Mitchell and Mr Hubbard admitted that they had overpaid slightly but said that this had not been done deliberately.

The trial continues today.

## Court orders release of two fans

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Two of the nine British fans held by Belgian police since last week's European Cup Final were ordered to be released yesterday after a brief court appearance.

They had to spend an extra night in prison because the Belgian authorities had mislaid their passports. The fans are hoping to be released today.

Two others, charged with more serious offences, were

remained in custody for 30 days. Like all those who have been arrested, the four who appeared in court yesterday were not directly involved in the rioting at the Heysel stadium when 38 people died last Wednesday.

The two who were released were Mr James Templeton, aged 32, and Mr James Prior, aged 26, both from Liverpool.

They had been arrested on suspicion of pick-pocketing but were released for want of sufficient evidence.

The two still in custody were Mr Peter Thomas, aged 32, who was arrested for being allegedly

in possession of drugs and a knife and for resisting arrest and Mr James McGill, aged 21, who was arrested for alleged theft.

The other five British fans are expected to appear in court today.

There is mounting criticism of the Belgian police for failing to arrest anyone for the riot although Mr Charles-Ferdinand Nothomb, the Interior Minister, said the police at the ground were too busy trying to save life to make arrests.

## Left to use age in blocking union man

From David Felton  
Labour Correspondent  
Blackpool

Left-wingers in a key communications union, who were rebuffed in an attempt to draft Mr Ken Livingstone as their candidate in a forthcoming leadership election, are now seeking to block the candidature of Mr John Gilling, a leading Labour Party right-winger.

The election for general secretary of the 160,000-strong National Communications Union (NCU) is scheduled for next Spring and the union's left organization has plans to delay the vote so that Mr Gilling, a member of the Labour national executive will be too old to stand.

The left's candidate is almost certain to be Mr Phil Holt, a Liverpool-based supporter of the Militant Tendency. A movement to prevent Mr Gilling from fighting the election is gathering ground and was given fresh impetus yesterday when election results showed that the left has consolidated its control on the executive committee.

The idea of approaching Mr Livingstone came from the NCU's Broad Left organization but the leader of the Greater London Council rejected the overtures, preferring to seek a career in the House of Commons.

The strategy for blocking Mr Gilling includes either delaying the election until after the Newcastle-upon-Lyme MP is disqualified, when he reaches the age of 55 in March, or changing the union's rules at a special conference in November to have the general secretary elected by a conference of delegates more sympathetic to the left.

The left are also thought to be anxious to distance the election from the political fund campaign, masterminded by Mr Gilling, who is also the NCU's political officer, which is expected to show a large majority of members have voted in favour of retaining a political fund. Results of the ballot are scheduled to be announced at the end of this month.

## Lessons for TUC

The TUC must learn lessons from the miners' strike and involve itself in all major disputes in the future, according to Mr David Barnett, one of the most influential voices in the Labour movement.

Mr Barnett, general secretary of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, told his union's annual conference in Blackpool that there was an overriding need for the union's senior body to regain influence and authority. He argued that the most obvious failure of the movement to support the miners, in not being able to organize industrial action by key groups of workers, was partly due to the lack of involvement by the TUC until a late stage.

Mr Barnett, general secretary of the General Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, told his union's annual conference in Blackpool that there was an overriding need for the union's senior body to regain influence and authority. He argued that the most obvious failure of the movement to support the miners, in not being able to organize industrial action by key groups of workers, was partly due to the lack of involvement by the TUC until a late stage.

Father O'Brien (right) graduated with a science degree from Edinburgh University and studied for the priesthood at St Andrews College, Dryburgh. He also holds a diploma in education. He was ordained in 1965.

## Scholarship scheme for poor foreign students

By our Education Correspondent

A new scholarship scheme for bright, but poor Commonwealth students was announced yesterday by Mr Timothy Raison, Minister for Overseas Development.

It will provide 450 scholarships over five years, beginning next year, and the funding will be shared between the Overseas Development Administration and those universities and polytechnics wishing to take part.

Mr Raison said that the scheme was being introduced because of concern about the difficulty of getting places in British universities since the advent of "full-cost" fees for overseas students in 1980. "There is a feeling that nowadays it is much harder for people to get to Great Britain to be educated and that therefore they are going elsewhere," he said.

It is estimated that the scheme will cost £16 million altogether, with the ODA paying £8 million on fares and fees, and the educational institutions having to find the students' maintenance costs. Universities and polytechnics are being told they will not be able to tap their recurrent grant but will have to raise the additional money privately.

Mr Raison, who announced the scheme in reply to a Parliamentary Question from Mr Robert Key, MP for Salisbury, said the scholarships would be open to students, aged under 35, from 57 developing Commonwealth countries.

## Newspaper talks fail

Prospects of a deal between the National Union of Journalists and the National Graphical Association over new technology receded yesterday as a meeting over a dispute at the Kent Messenger broke up after 90 minutes amid considerable bitterness.

An NUJ request that the NGA should not seek to "follow the work" out of the composing room on to the editorial floor, was described as "outrageous" by Mr Tony Dubbins, general secretary of the association.

## Army title for princess

The Princess of Wales forged her first formal links with the Army yesterday by agreeing to become Colonel-in-Chief of The Royal Hampshire Regiment. She will be the first royal colonel-in-chief of the Bedouin-based regiment.

At the same time, she has been appointed Honorary Air Commodore of RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire, home of many of the Harrier aircraft used in the Falklands War.

## Edinburgh's archbishop

The new Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh is to be Father Keith O'Brien, aged 47, the Rector of St Mary's College, Balak, Aberdeen, the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland announced yesterday. He succeeds Cardinal Gordon Gray, who announced last November that he was to retire.

Father O'Brien (right) graduated with a science degree from Edinburgh University and studied for the priesthood at St Andrews College, Dryburgh. He also holds a diploma in education. He was ordained in 1965.

## NOP survey for The Times

## Italians 'partly to blame'

By Colin Hughes

If the European authorities enforce a ban on British clubs, should they also ban Italian clubs?

Ben Juventus	24
Ben all Italian clubs	25
Not ban any Italian clubs	34
Don't know	17

Do you approve or disapprove of the FA's decision to withdraw English teams from European competition for the next year at least?

Approve	68
Disapprove	25
Don't know	7

Was the BBC right to show the match?

Yes	67
No	27
Don't know	7

Revelation for the Liverpool fans' responsibility is, none the less, clearly widespread: 68 per cent approved the Football Association's decision to withdraw English clubs from European competition, and 59 per cent support UEFA's total ban.

One in 10, however, believe that only Liverpool should have been banned, and 22 per cent think no ban should be enforced. Football supporters, in particular, supported a ban on English clubs more strongly than a general ban including all British clubs.

Similarly, those who professed a keen interest in football were more likely to disapprove of the FA's move (59 per cent). Younger people were also more critical of the Italian fans' role than the average. While 67 per cent overall believed the Italians were partly to blame, the figure rose to 73 per cent for those aged 15 to 24. Surprisingly, however, 27 per cent of football fans thought only the English were to blame, against 21 per cent overall.

Asked how well the Belgians handled arrangements for the match and the trouble when it started, 28 per cent said "fairly badly", and 51 per cent said "very badly".

Reports of anti-British violence in Italy after the riot should be taken with a "large pinch of salt", the Association of British Travel Agents said yesterday.

Parliament, page 4

Chance for Dundee, page 25

## No excuse for riot House told

Continued from page 1

Belgians to be offered opportunity of transferring offenders given prison sentences in Belgium to prisons in Britain.

Mrs Thatcher supported the indefinite ban imposed by UEFA on English clubs.

"If English clubs are to play football in Europe again, they can do so only when their good name and that of their followers and supporters has been restored," she said.

Mrs Thatcher said it was disappointing that so few of the offenders at Brussels had been apprehended, and called on people who were responsible to come forward and help to bring them to justice.

Mr Kinnoch said the proposals did not begin to match the scale of the crisis in football. Action was needed to identify and deal with the causes of hooliganism, to discover not only who was committing the crimes but why they committed them.

Mrs Thatcher said that an inquiry could go on for years and find as many answers as there were people on it.

Chance for Dundee, page 25

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## Driver of school coach had a stroke before crash, post-mortem tests show

The driver of the coach carrying a party of British schoolchildren, which crashed last week in the South of France, killing seven people, suffered a stroke just before the accident, the official post-mortem examination revealed.

Mr Edmund Stenege, public prosecutor of Ales near where the accident occurred, announced yesterday that the driver, Mr Harry Hughes, aged 35, who died in the crash, was the victim of a "haemorrhage encapsulating the brain stem", which had provoked a progressive paralysis of his body, as had been confirmed by several witnesses immediately after the crash.

The stroke, which caused the driver to lose control of the coach just before a dangerous bend while it was travelling at a high speed, was the sole cause of the accident, Mr Stenege said. There was no trace of any alcohol in the driver's body, nor of any mechanical fault in the vehicle itself, he added.

Dozens of schoolchildren left morning assembly yesterday in tears at one of the schools in St Albans, Hertfordshire, involved in the coach crash. Children at Beaumont comprehensive school were given details of the accident during assembly and many wept as they left the hall.

Two girls, Jackie Francis,

aged 17, of Sherwood Avenue, St Albans, and Ann Morris, aged 13, of Crouchmore Gardens, Redbourn, both from Beaumont, were among the seven victims of the crash near Montpellier on Wednesday, when their coach left the road and overturned as children from Beaumont and Verulam schools in St Albans were returning from an adventure holiday.

The others who died were Duncan Halstead, aged 13, of Lemsford Road, Marisham, aged 14, of Upper Heath Road, and Stephen Eke, aged 14, of Jenkins Avenue, all pupils at Verulam school, from St Albans, Barbara Ericsson, a teacher, aged 28, also died.

One of the pupils who was among the 39 survivors, Graham Andrews, aged 14, suffered cuts to his face and head and a severed artery, and needed 49 stitches at a French hospital before he was allowed home late last week.

He said: "The coach veered off the road and I thought the driver had swerved to miss something. But we straightened up."

Then, he said, "The coach started to fall over and all I could hear was loud screaming."

Yesterday was the first day back at school for pupils after the half-term holiday. Industrial



Royal tour: Prince Edward performing a balancing act to entertain members of the Cambridge Youth Theatre, of which he is patron, during a visit to a drama workshop.

## 250 Stonehenge cases start

People arrested in the battle for Stonehenge arrived in court by the coachload yesterday as magistrates began hearing evidence against about 250 of more than 500 in custody. They were appearing in courts in Eastleigh, Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester in Hampshire and at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

In Salisbury, the accused were arriving in coaches at the police station where they were being dealt with two at a time by magistrates.

According to police, about 550 people had been arrested in the operation to prevent the staging of an illegal pop festival at the ancient monument on Salisbury Plain. Of these, 510 were arrested during Saturday's clash between police and

hippies from a "peace convoy" at Cholderton, 10 miles from Stonehenge.

The accused face charges of obstruction, assault, unlawful assembly and obstructing the police.

Many of those appearing at Salisbury were being given bail on condition that they do not go within a 25-mile radius of Stonehenge, which includes Saverne Forest, where the peace convoy originally formed.

Police said that so many people were arrested that they had been held eight to a cell at various police stations over the weekend. Magistrates at Salisbury are expected to sit throughout this week.

The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission,

which owns Stonehenge, and the National Trust, which owns the 1,500 acres around it, had won High Court injunctions banning an annual pop festival held at Stonehenge for the past 21 years.

● The battered remnants of the peace convoy have been given temporary sanctuary by the Lord Cardigan at a camp on his family land at Saverne Forest, near Marlborough, Wiltshire.

About 100 people are camped at the site on the edge of the main A336 Salisbury Road. The campers believe at least a dozen children are "missing". They were thought to have been taken into care by the social services.

## Survey on health to involve 35,000

By Thomson Prentice Science Correspondent

Major projects aimed at reducing Britain's annual toll of 140,000 deaths from heart disease were launched yesterday, including one of the country's biggest-ever health surveys.

Despite many successes in research and treatment, Britain has one of the world's worst records for heart disease, which kills more than twice as many people as cancer and claims one life prematurely every four minutes.

In the next few weeks, in Wales, 35,000 people, aged between 12 and 64, will be asked to complete questionnaires about their diet, lifestyle, smoking habits and attitudes towards their health.

The survey, one of the biggest of its kind, is part of a £1.5 million, five-year project. Wales has been chosen for the study, funded by the Health Education Council and the Welsh Office, because of its record of 210,000 heart disease deaths every year.

In a separate initiative, the British Heart Foundation launched its "research saves lives" National campaign, which includes the third and final phase of another important survey.

Men in 24 towns in England, Wales and Scotland are being examined for risk factors such as blood pressure, smoking and blood cholesterol, along with environmental factors such as water supply, rainfall and temperature.

"We are trying to explain the striking geographic variations in death rates from heart disease in Britain," Professor Gerald Shaper, of the Royal Free Hospital, London, who is heading the £240,000 study, said.

The foundation is trying to draw attention to the scale of heart disease and the ways in which it can be tackled, by issuing one than two million publicity packs this week.

## Children's home head jailed for sex offences

Ronald Cooper, aged 56, of Coleridge Way, Orpington, Kent, head of a Lewisham Council home for disturbed children, who admitted a series of sex offences involving young boys in his care, was jailed for four years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Cooper, who had been working for 17 years at the home in Edward Road, Bromley, Kent, took thousands of "revolting" photographs of naked children, some as young as five-years-old, the court was told.

A single man, with an "exemplary" previous character, admitted specimen charges of taking and distributing indecent pictures between 1979 and 1982. He also admitted inciting two boys aged five to take part in indecent acts and sexually assaulting a boy aged 11.

Mr Timothy Landale, for the prosecution, said that the police found 34 albums full of pictures, hidden at Cooper's home. The albums had been carefully indexed.

He had been arrested after a year-long police operation, code named "Circus", into male prostitution in the West End. Cooper had nothing to do with that, but police found information which led them to him.

## Teenage rapist strikes again

A youth aged 17 and nicknamed the "teenage fox", who raped a babysitter aged 11 at knife-point, has raped a girl aged 15 in Lacock near Chippenham, Wiltshire.

The girl was able to tell detectives that the attacker now has a golden Labrador with him. The attack on Sunday came after a three-week search by police in the West Country where the rapist has been leading a fox-style existence living rough in wooded countryside.

## Bank and chemist in Tesco's £20m store

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Tesco Stores opens its hundredth store in the United Kingdom today at Brent Park, Neasden north-west London said to be the biggest of its kind in the Capital with a bank and a pharmacy in the store as well as petrol selling at prices below many in surrounding area.

Sir Leslie Porter, who retires as Tesco's chairman next month at a preview, said yesterday that transformation of old railway land off the North Circular road had taken seven years' negotiation and hard work, the total cost running at about £20 million. He added: "Brent Park sets new standards in retailing and will be something of a flagship for Tesco and for our industry."

Tesco is Britain's biggest supermarket operator. Asda, based in Leeds, which is part of Associated Dairies Group, has 85 supermarkets, with more being opened in the South. J. Sainsbury's, with 100 supermarkets, has 100 supermarkets, with more being opened in the South. J. Sainsbury's, with 100 supermarkets, has 100 supermarkets, with more being opened in the South.

## Institute calls for 25mph cars

By Michael Horsnell

A new category of car capable of a maximum speed of 25 mph and especially designed to limit damage to cyclists and pedestrians in an accident should be recognized by the government, the Policy Studies Institute said yesterday.

The measure would reduce danger and environmental intrusion as well as extend the use of cars to people who cannot afford them now, it adds.

The proposal is made in a PSI study which shows how transport could be made more efficient for users while reducing costs in resources, accidents and pollution.

The new car, which would probably be electrically propelled, would attract favourable licensing, taxation and traffic management for users.

It would not be permitted on motorways and 16-year-olds should be allowed to drive it, the report says.

Transport Reform: Changing the Rules, by Stephen Platten (Policy Studies Institute) £6.50.

● New regulations for stricter standards of fire-resistant passenger seats on British aircraft were announced yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority.

Studies of fires arising from aircraft crashes have shown that the flammability of seat upholstery is an important factor in spreading a cabin fire.

By July 1, 1986, all newly manufactured seats will have to comply with the new standards while other aircraft will have to have been converted by December 1, 1987.

## ITV offers 'Dallas' back to BBC at cut price

By Our Arts Correspondent

Thames Television confirmed yesterday that it was discussing with the BBC the sale of *Dallas*, the popular American soap opera, as a way out of the impasse within independent television about screening the series.

But the move may be opposed by the series' distributors, Wavelength, which claims that it can prevent the sale. The American company believes that the BBC paid too little for

*Dallas* in the past. The station believes that many of the independent television companies which say they will not show *Dallas* are likely to change their minds.

Thames is paying about £55,000 an episode for the antics of JR and the rest of the Ewing clan, compared to the £43,000 which the BBC was offering. But it may offer the series to the corporation at a reduced price.

That dog a ticket is a "crook". She said: "I was very embarrassed. I asked the judge if I could be excused from the ring."

Her partner, Miss Vandella Williams, of the same address, said she went up to Mrs Lashmar and asked her to stop using foul language. Miss Williams said: "She said I won only because I have paid or slept for my wins. She was speaking very loudly."

"I had had abuse from Mrs Lashmar over many years. Every time we beat her we get this abuse."

Mr Terence Nethercott, of Carfax Road, Hayes, Middlesex, said he had to get between Mrs Lashmar and Miss Williams away before things got out of control.

Mrs Lashmar's daughter Carol, aged 32, who is also a show judge, for Pekinese dogs, said yesterday: "My mother could not attend the hearing because she is in hospital with terminal cancer. She is 63 and this ban is disgusting for something which was mainly loss of temper."

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## Co-op set for travel expansion

By Our Commercial Editor

Co-op Travel, the retail travel agency chain which is part of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), has expansion plans to put it among the leading travel agents in Britain.

The group operates 72 outlets, having recently gained 25 branches of the former Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society which merged its south London operation with CWS.

Now CWS plans to increase the number of Co-op Travel outlets to at least 100 within 18 months, partly by acquisition. Most existing outlets are self-standing, but some are within Co-op stores. The biggest concentration of outlets apart from London, is in the Midlands and the North-west.

About fifty further travel outlets are operated by some of the 100 co-operative retail societies. The North-east society has 14 outlets. Leading retail agents such as Thomas Cook, Pickfords Travel and Hogg Robinson each have about 200 branches.

She said it was "that so few of the Brussels had been" and called on "were there and who were responsible forward and help to justice."

She said the move to begin to protect the crisis in football needed to identify the causes of the crisis and to discover not as committing the fly they committed

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## Breeder is banned after Pekinese show fracas

Judging was held up in the Pekinese dog section at Bourne-mouth Canine Association Show in August last year after a breeder started shouting and swearing at competitors, a Kennel Club hearing was told yesterday.

The general committee decided that four complaints against Mrs Barbara Lashmar, of Woodhatch Road, Redhill, Surrey, was justified and that she had discredited the canine world.

She was banned for 10 years from judging, exhibiting or attending dog shows. Mrs Lashmar did not attend the hearing.

The hearing was told that Mrs Lashmar's remarks sent Miss Adele Summers out of the ring in tears with her dog, Modesty Permits.

Miss Summers, of Berrylands Farm, Stanford, Purbiton, Surrey, said that Mrs Lashmar was sitting near the judges and was saying in a loud voice that Miss Summers' dog was a "cripple".

As she walked the dog around the ring she heard Mrs Lashmar saying: "Anybody that gives

people bought more chips and frozen and processed vegetables at the expense of the fresh product.

The most notable drop was in consumption of beef, pork and lamb from 14.67 oz to 13.97 oz a person a week, the lowest since 1973. The Meat and Livestock Commission is spending £6 million this year, on a campaign to counter the trend towards vegetarianism.

There was also a pronounced increase in sales of skinned and semi-skinned milk, while those of full-cream milk contin-

ued to decline. Consumption of fish, at more than 5.1 oz a person a week was the highest since 1970.

It is believed that changes in dietary habits may have accelerated the trend year on year or because of increased publicity. But the ministry does not take into account "fast food" take-away sales, which are not recommended by health experts and which are also on the increase.

Household Food Consumption and Expenditure 1983. (Stationary Office, £16.95).

## Less sugar eaten, more cheese and chips

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

If Britons are switching towards what is nowadays held to be a healthier diet, they are doing so only slowly and to no obvious pattern, a government report published today suggests.

The Ministry of Agriculture's annual statistical survey of household food purchases for 1983 shows a decline in the consumption of milk, cream, sugar and red meat, and an increase in fish, poultry, fresh fruit and wholemeal bread.

But sales of butter and cheese also increased, and

people bought more chips and frozen and processed vegetables at the expense of the fresh product.

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# PM outlines steps to curb football violence: ban put on alcohol

## Hooliganism

The Government is to introduce as soon as possible legislation similar to that in the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 1980 making it an offence to be drunk or to possess alcohol on football grounds, on entry to grounds and in most areas of grounds.

This was announced by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, the Prime Minister, in a Commons statement outlining measures to be put in hand to deal with football violence in the aftermath of the riotous behaviour by football supporters at the European Cup final between Liverpool and Juventus in Brussels last Wednesday when 38 people died.

She said the 1980 Act also made it an offence to be in possession of containers, it was intended to bring the new legislation on the Statute Book by the summer recess, in time for the coming football season.

Mrs Thatcher said she knew the whole house would share the nation's profound sympathy for the bereaved and injured and the sense of outrage and shame at the behaviour of some of our citizens which led to the tragedy in Brussels.

Exchanges with Mr Neil Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, she said the only three ways of dealing with the violence in human nature were punishment, prevention and education. We shall (she went on) try to operate all three.

She also said: The Belgian authorities and UEFA (Union of European Football Associations) are conducting formal inquiries into the arrangements for the match and into the disaster. They will no doubt report on the extent to which the internationally agreed guidelines and precautions for spectator safety were followed.

We cannot prejudice the outcome of those inquiries. But we have to recognise that there has been a terrible record of violence at European football matches. I regret to say that English supporters have played a large part over many years.

In these circumstances, the Government welcomed the initial decision of the football association to withdraw English clubs from participation in European competitions next season, and we fully understand the subsequent decision of UEFA to ban English clubs from European competition for an indefinite period and we believe it to be right.

This withdrawal gives English football authorities the opportunity to introduce effective measures to combat violence and to ensure that other countries that they have done so.

After announcing the legislation to ban alcohol from football grounds, Mrs Thatcher said that the Government was also introducing with the legislation envisaged in the Government's White Paper on the review of public order.

The proposals on assemblies in the open air will considerably strengthen the powers available to the police to guard against the risk of disorder.

Wherever they have reason to expect disorder at a football match the police will, in effect, be able to limit the game and impose other conditions. Under this provision the police should be able to stipulate whatever steps they judge necessary to minimise the risk of disorder.

Mr Justice Popplewell will continue with his inquiry into the events at Bradford City and Birmingham football grounds on May 11. His terms of reference are already wide enough to allow any lessons learned from Brussels to be taken into account. I understand that Mr Justice Popplewell hopes to submit an interim report before the beginning of next season.

The Government has set in hand the procedure for designating under the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, all clubs in the third and fourth divisions.

We have, in addition, agreed with the Football Authorities on a number of measures including the acceleration of the introduction of closed circuit television with the help of the Football Trust. It has been informed today that the trust is proposing to allocate £500,000 for this purpose as a first step.

This would give cover in over 30 grounds in addition to the 11 in which experiments are already taking place.

Events at Brussels last week have, however, made it clear that more is now needed.

I shall be discussing urgently with the Football Authorities proposals for:

1. The introduction of a practical scheme of membership cards, either on a club or national basis.

## Proposals for a far more all-ticket match.

2. Stricter controls, or in some cases a ban, on visiting spectators. I recognise (she went on) that such measures would mean a radical change in the way in which football is conducted in this country. But radical change is needed if football is to survive as a spectator sport.

In parallel with our own action, we shall continue to co-operate in developing international measures to deal with hooliganism.

Next week, the Minister for Sport (Mr Neil Kinnock) will be attending a meeting of European Ministers for that purpose.

In the meantime, we are anxious to give the Brussels authorities every possible assistance in bringing to justice and dealing appropriately with people from this country who have committed offences in connection with last Wednesday's match.

The Home Secretary has sent a message to the Belgian Minister of the Interior offering the assistance and co-operation of British police forces. The Merseyside Police and the Metropolitan Police are examining television film closely to see if they can identify those responsible for last Wednesday's violence.

We also want to do everything within our power to remove any possible difficulty in the way of any charges the Belgian authorities may decide to bring.

Arrangements already exist between the United Kingdom and Belgium for the extradition of those accused of serious offences of violence such as murder, manslaughter, rape and sexual assault. If the Belgian authorities were to seek the extradition of someone accused of such an offence, we should naturally give them every assistance to meet our requirements on evidence.

One disincentive for the Belgian authorities may be that it is less trouble simply to expel Britons who may have committed offences rather than to prosecute and sentence them appropriately. We intend to offer the Belgians the opportunity, in accordance with the Repatriation of Prisoners Act, of anyone who may be given a prison sentence in Belgium.

I hope that last Wednesday's sickening events will unite all decent people in helping to eradicate hooliganism, and that the violence requires effort and commitment from us all.

If English clubs are to play football in Europe again, they can do so only when their good name, and that of the game, and supporters, has been restored.

Mr Kinnock, Leader of the Opposition, said they supported the decision to bring in legislation similar to that in Scotland but were surprised by the rather restricted

action being proposed by the Government and disappointed by the decision to extend the inquiry into the events at Bradford City and Birmingham football grounds on May 11. His terms of reference are already wide enough to allow any lessons learned from Brussels to be taken into account. I understand that Mr Justice Popplewell hopes to submit an interim report before the beginning of next season.

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If it was the case that any of this thuggery was related in any way to political organisations - racists, fascists or anyone else - that must be among the areas to be inquired into.

It must be their determined purpose to ensure that the thuggish minority that was a stain on British football and society had its day and would never be permitted to show its ugly face again.

Mrs Thatcher said she could not speed up the rate at which Mr Justice Popplewell would report. She understood it was his intention to have an interim report before the beginning of next season.

There are (she said) considerable sums already going into football. We are prepared to allocate more should the result of that committee under the chairmanship of the Minister of Sport find it necessary. An inquiry into crime and hooliganism could go on and on for years and find as many answers as there were people on such an inquiry.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab), who said his constituency included the grounds of both Liverpool and Everton football clubs, said there was a deep feeling of grief among the people of Liverpool. He had expressed to the Italian ambassador - it was Italian day - that the people of Liverpool had as much grief in their hearts as the people of Milan and Turin.

But I ask the Prime Minister (he went on) do not be involved in any cover-up of some of the terrible things that have happened.

Many people have run away from their responsibilities, the Belgian authorities. What about the fact that the ground was unsuitable? (Conservative interruptions). What about the fact that the police action was inadequate to deal with the outbreak?

Mrs Thatcher: We cannot prejudice the results of the inquiry by Belgium. Some of the things to which Mr Heffer refers would not be necessary unless there were soccer hooliganism. It is appalling that supporters of one club cannot stand by supporters of another club without there being fear of violence.

Mr David Ashley (North West Leicestershire, Con) was asking about giving help to the police in Thursday morning hundreds of police officers and detectives at all points of entry leading out of the grounds and addresses of those returning for further inquiry?

Mrs Thatcher: Our police are giving every possible assistance, not only in looking at videos but they have also been active at some of the ports of entry on return.

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) said he had been in Luton since Mr Thatcher's statement for the talk of the severe penalties that might be imposed on football hooligans. Nowhere was there anything that penalties would put upon them the physical pain they so readily put upon others.

Mrs Thatcher: The penalties available are already severe. Those meted out at Cambridge a fortnight ago were of the order of five years' imprisonment. We all thought they were appropriate sentences. There could, of course, be even more severe sentences.

I believe recent events will probably mean heavier sentences are meted out and that will be right.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C): The police are fed up with being treated as the poor bloody infantry. They are asking for powers to search for liquor, weapons and drugs and the power to be able to ban a match if those going to it are a clear threat to public order.

Mrs Thatcher replied that the police would have increased powers under the proposed legislation. They already had the power to search people under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act.

She added that the legislation would not only bring in measures similar to those in force in Scotland but also ban the supply of alcohol to fans.

Mr Kinnock said his Party wanted to co-operate as much as possible on improving legislation but Mrs Thatcher had given no indication of co-operation between the various bodies, no undertaking about finance and no undertaking about investigating the cause of the violence.

Mrs Thatcher said there was a co-ordinating committee on finance. There had been books and papers on the causes of violence which had not found the answer. They did not need another inquiry.

## SOCIAL SECURITY

Faced with the danger that some parts of the social security system would breakdown as it was too complex, Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, in a long statement on the outcome of the review of social security and the Green Paper just published, said it was a matter of urgency that a simpler and more coherent system was devised.

He announced that the Government proposed to introduce a new benefit, to be called Family Credit, to provide extra help for poor working families with children. Family Income Supplement would be abolished. It was also proposed to replace supplementary benefit with a new Income Support system.

After indicating changes in the housing benefit system and the last on which help was provided with rates - here the Government have it in mind to make everyone be directly responsible for something like 20 per cent of domestic rates as long as they remain, Mr Fowler said that no one retiring during the rest of this century would be affected, neither would any existing pensioners.

He declared: It would be an abdication of responsibility to hand down obligations to our children which we believe they cannot fulfil. Mr Fowler, in his statement said the Government remained committed to the concept of a national insurance system under which entitlement to the major benefits was earned by the payment of contributions during a working life.

The Government also believed in the tradition of state support for those in need was one which should be maintained and developed.

But social security (he went on) is not a function of the state alone. It should be a partnership between the individual and the state - a system built on twin pillars.

The social security system is not properly coordinated with the tax system and operates with outdated equipment. We now need major computerisation strategy for social security which can link effectively with other Government systems including that of the inland revenue.

In terms of spending, the cost of the social security system has increased five-fold in real terms since the war and now totals some £40 billion a year. That is over 30 per cent of the gross domestic product.

Mr Fowler said the Government proposed to reduce the cost of the social security system by 11 per cent of gross domestic product compared with only 4.7 per cent after the war. Nor has the pressure for growth in spending eased.

In the first part of the next century we need to provide for an extra four million pensioners. That, taken together with the state earnings related pension scheme and the existing pensioners, will mean that we will have a soundly based social security system which the country can afford.

The new Family Credit will have three main features. It will be paid on the same basis as help to unemployed families, in that help will be related to the age of children. It will be related to take-home pay. It will not be related to earnings. It will be paid by employers through the pay packet.

Family Credit will be paid in addition to child benefit. The Government believe that the extra money earned by parents by bringing up children should be recognised. Child benefit will, therefore, continue to be paid for all children irrespective of the means of the family.

Family Credit will be part of a coherent system of income-related benefits. That system, covering basic income support, assistance with housing costs and help for low income families, will be based on a common income test and a common means test. It will be simpler, fairer and easier to administer; and it will provide the same level of help at the same level of income for those in and out of work.

The central concept of the income support scheme is that the regular

extra payments now made on the basis of detailed individual assessment should be absorbed into the main rates of benefit. Those rates will provide a special higher level of benefit for pensioners, the long term sick and disabled and lone parents.

Instead of the present single payments system we propose to set up a social fund which will be operated on discretionary basis by specially trained staff at DHSS local offices. It will provide emergency help where needed and help those who face particular difficulties.

We also expect that the social fund will, in time, provide a better basis for contributing cash help to enable people to be cared for in the community rather than in institutions.

He was also publishing the report of the housing benefit review team and said he had accepted most of their recommendations. The review team found that housing benefit was excessively complicated, involved six different rules applied to different groups at different income levels. It was also expensive and poorly targeted with over one-third of all households - some with incomes up to average earnings - receiving benefit.

We intend to move to a simpler, clearer system (he went on). It will be based on the same net income assessment basis as the income support and family credit systems. It will also provide help on the basis of rent and rates together rather than separately as at present. For the poorest families, housing benefit will be 100 per cent of rent. At present 100 per cent help goes only to those on supplementary benefit. In future it will apply equally to those in and out of work.

We believe, however, that the basis on which help is provided, at rates which have to be changed, at present some seven million households receive help with some or all of their rate bills and over three million households pay no rates at all. As a result a large proportion of people live in households in which no rates are paid. This means that there is no effective link between payment for and use of local services.

The whole structure of rates is currently under review but the Government believe that, so long as domestic rates remain, all households should be directly responsible for making some payment towards them. The Government have in mind a figure of the order of 20 per cent.

The review also examined the contributory national insurance system and the Government propose to make no change in unemployment benefit which will continue to be paid for twelve months.

For widows under 60, we propose to replace the widow's allowance currently payable for the first six months after bereavement by a single lump sum payment of £1,000 to give them more help when it is most needed. The pension, widowed mother's allowance will now be paid from the time of bereavement rather than after six months as at present.

Widow's pension will also be paid from the time of bereavement but the eligibility criteria will be modified to concentrate help more on older widows who are least likely to be able to resume work. The changes will not affect the benefit paid to any existing widows.

We propose to adjust the rules governing maternity allowance so that the mother can have greater freedom in choosing when, around the time of her confinement, she wishes to be paid the allowance. We also intend to change the qualification period so that the benefit is more likely to be paid to women who have had to give up work in order to have their baby.

The maternity grant and the death grant have been left at their present level - £25 and £30 respectively - for more years and are now quite inadequate for the purposes. The average cost of a funeral is now over ten times the present level. The grant will be increased to £20 in administration to pay out each £30 grant. We propose instead a new maternity grant of £75 - three times the level of the present grant - available to all low income families. Help with the full cost of funeral

will also be made available more widely than at present to anybody who has responsibility for a funeral and lacks the resources to pay for it.

The largest single area of social security spending is on pensions. The basic pension alone accounts for over £15 billion a year and is paid to nine million people. That pension accounts, on average, for half the income of pensioners and has been a major factor in raising pensioners' living standards since the War. It is, and must remain, the basis in which individuals can build additional pension provision. The question is how that extra provision should be made.

At present only about half the working population belong to occupational pension schemes. The development of occupational pension schemes has been an important factor in improving living standards since the War. But the coverage of schemes has not increased since the mid-1970s and five million people are without occupational pension provision.

The analysis undertaken during the review has shown that the number of pensioners for whom we will eventually need to provide is three million greater than was recognized in 1974 and five million greater than is today. It is clear, therefore, that the long term cost of state pensions is set to rise steeply in the next thirty years of the next century.

If the basic pension was updated in line with prices then its cost would increase in real terms by half to £22 billion. If it kept pace with earnings the cost would triple to nearly £45 billion. On top of that, the cost of the state earnings related scheme will add another £23 billion.

Thus, the total pensions bill will at least triple and could increase by four times at the same time the ratio of contributors to pensioners will worsen and it is estimated that there will be only 1.6 contributors for each pensioner compared with 2.3 now.

As a country we cannot ignore these emerging costs. If the best estimates available to us lead us to question whether we will be able to afford the promises we are making then we have a duty to re-examine the position.

The real question is not whether action should be taken on the state earnings related scheme, but what action. There are those who argue that we should restrict the emerging cost of the state scheme by changing its provisions. The difficulty of that course is that contributions would remain the same while benefits would be reduced. There is no doubt that there would be any increase in occupational pensions to fill that gap.

The Government have concluded that it would be better to adopt a different approach. This would be based on the aim of ensuring that in addition to the basic pension everyone has his own pension with

his job - whether it be an occupational pension, membership of an industry-wide scheme or a personal pension. In all cases every employee would have the right to a contribution from his employer.

We recognize, however, that relatively older workers would have difficulty in building up an adequate occupational pension cover. We have decided, therefore, not to make any changes for those within fifteen years of retirement. For men aged 50 or over and women aged 45 and over at the time of implementation the existing state earnings related arrangements will continue. The question is how that extra provision should be made.

All rights built up in the state scheme at the time of the change will be honoured. In addition, we also intend to give a special enhancement of rights for men aged between 40 and 49 and women aged 35 to 44. They will be given a bonus of added years of entitlement which will give them higher pensions when they eventually retire.

For those to be covered by the new arrangements the Government will lay down a minimum contribution level of 4 per cent of earnings at least half of which must be provided by the employer. The new arrangements will be phased in over three years.

These changes will mean that in due course all employees will be contributing to their own additional pension through their jobs. This will represent the biggest ever extension of occupational pension coverage.

Mr Michael Mawhood, chief Opposition spokesman on Social Security, said the package would bring about a net loss to pensioners and the unemployed of at least £1,000 million a year in the next few years, even before the huge costs of the abolition of Serps began. The main beneficiaries (he went on) will be the rich who will receive even bigger tax handouts in future Tory Budgets.

We welcome the Government's limited relief of Serps in response to our demand for Conservative (five laughter) - but the long-term abolition of Serps - the central axis of the welfare state - is still a betrayal of an unequivocal pledge given by the Prime Minister three weeks before the last general election. There can be no justification for claiming Serps cannot be afforded in the next century.

Mr Fowler: We have had a typically hysterical response from him. I am grateful for what I take to be an endorsement of my proposals on Serps for the rest of this century. I am sure that the Serps will make a contribution to the dispute.

We all know that Mr Walker too has had his disputes with Mr MacGregor. The chairman was so insistent at the end of the dispute to say that Mr Walker was not to do with the conduct of the whole dispute. That was misleading the country. Could Mr Walker intervene? He had never wanted Mr MacGregor there so he should be excluded.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab): When were these proposals forecast and explained during the last election, and what is the figure of savings of social security benefit Mr Fowler aims to secure?

Mr Fowler: We made clear when the inquiry into social security was set up that I and the Government intended to have a fundamental review.

The emphasis in the Green Paper is on the new structure and until it is settled it is impossible to provide any detailed analysis because it depends on benefit rates set in 1987.

Changes in supplementary benefits sector are not intended to reduce overall benefit provided. We expect spending to be reduced by about £500m.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesham, Lab): During the dispute the Secretary of State allowed pledges to be given to Serps on almost any terms to get the dispute ended. Now the dispute is over Serps he has betrayed the Serps and the coal board chairman and the Government.

Mr Alfred Dubs, Opposition spokesman on immigration, said that he had decided that it was necessary to oppose the requirement for citizens of Sri Lanka, a fellow Commonwealth country.

The need for it would be kept under review and he hoped it could be lifted in due course, he said in a statement on policy towards Sri Lanka.

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# Production of coal at high level

## COAL INDUSTRY

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, strongly disputed the contention of Mr Stanley Orme, chief Opposition spokesman, on energy, at question time in the Commons, that industrial relations in the coal industry were at an extremely low level.

Mr Orme asserted that the National Coal Board had deliberately "screwed the matter up" and done nothing to get normal relations working. To this Mr Walker replied that in the majority of pits there were normal relations. Productivity and coal production were at a high level and he was sorry Mr Orme was not more positive and encouraging more workers to return to normal.

Former Minister of Power and Mines, Mr Roy Mason (Barnsley, Lab) was accused of inflammatory language after saying that the coal industry was on the brink of a national strike.

Mr Mason said: When the minister next meets the chairman of the National Coal Board will he draw his attention to the severe breakdown in industrial relations caused by the stupid and outdated attitude of the chairman (Mr Ian MacGregor) and his deputy (Mr J R Cowie) who have walked round union officials to work five days a week underground and put them on a three shift system?

They have disturbed the National Association of Colliery Overmen and shotfitters (Nacods) and misled them, and we are hovering once more on the brink of a national strike. What will the minister do to rectify the situation and get a grip on it?

Mr David Hunt, Under Secretary for Energy, said that, when he has carefully considered what he has said, Mr Mason will realize that it was wrong and in bad taste to use such inflammatory language at such a crucial stage in the present situation.

He should take the opportunity to go underground as I have, at Point of Ayr and Selby, when he will hear from the men underground that all they want to do is to put the strike behind them and work for the future of the industry.

Mr Michael Foot (Blaenau Gwent, Lab) said later: What Mr Mason has said represents the widespread feeling throughout the coalfields - the chairman is a nasty, dishonest, traitor, making a major contribution to the dispute.

We all know that Mr Walker too has had his disputes with Mr MacGregor. The chairman was so insistent at the end of the dispute to say that Mr Walker was not to do with the conduct of the whole dispute. That was misleading the country. Could Mr Walker intervene? He had never wanted Mr MacGregor there so he should be excluded.

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## International Law Report

June 3 1985

## International Court of Justice

# Determination of continental shelf rights

Continental Shelf (Lib



## SOCIAL SECURITY REVIEW

● Help for low paid ● Free school meals curbed ● Child benefit likely to fall

## Serps entitlements will be honoured as system is phased out by 1990

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The Government intends to phase out the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps) during 1987-88 to 1989-90, shifting personal pension provision into the private sector and continuing with only the flat-rate element of the state pension scheme, according to the "programme for change" in the Fowler review.

However, all entitlement earned under Serps by 1987, when the scheme will have been in existence for 9 years, will be honoured.

All men aged 50 and over and all women aged 45 and over in 1987 will continue with existing arrangements, they will continue to build up Serps pensions through contributions

if they were previously "contracted-in". Because it takes only 20 years to build up a full pension under Serps (compared with 40 years or more under many private occupational schemes), the youngest of these will benefit virtually fully from the introduction of the scheme in 1978, and be the only age group to do so.

All men aged 40-49 and all women aged 35-45 in 1987 will have existing Serps rights enhanced, he eldest will in effect be credited with an extra 7½ years of contributions, increasing Serps rights by 75 per cent; the youngest by one year of contributions, increasing rights by 10 per cent.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has calculated that for a man on average earnings aged 49, that will add the equivalent of £12.20 to his weekly pension. The man aged 40 would receive a bonus equivalent to £1.65 a week in today's money from these credits.

The basic pension will continue to be updated in line with prices, and the Fowler review suggests that the Government "will in the long term be in a better position to choose whether to improve the basic pension as national wealth increases" - a broad hint that the changes would permit pensions to be updated in line with earnings.

Under the pension system envisaged by the Fowler review, employees and employers will be obliged to contribute to an occupational or personal pension. However, the minimum requirements appear to be rather less than governing the terms on which employers may at present "contract-out" of Serps by providing occupational pensions.

The minimum level of contribution will be set "for the transitional period" at 4 per cent of earnings.

The IPS has calculated that a man aged 35 in 1987, on average earnings, would probably not be able to replace what he loses from the abolition of Serps by contributions at this level.

This figure has been kept low to prevent employers' costs

rising during the transition. Employers formerly "contracted-in" will find their national insurance contributions reduced.

The review suggests the combined rate for employers and employees will drop from 19.45 per cent to 16.5 per cent. If both sides contribute a combined 4 per cent to an occupational pension, the report suggests, total contributions will rise by only about 1 per cent of earnings.

The review suggests that workers aged 16 to 18, and their employers, will not be obliged to contribute to private pensions, reducing the cost of employing school-leavers. There will also be a minimum level of earnings, below which the obligation will not apply.

The Government will "consider further" whether there should be an upper limit. The Government will allow a wide variety of personal pension schemes but require "certain minimum benefit conditions". Apart from the provision of a pension, the main requirement will be a "survivors" benefit for widows and widowers, of at least half the pension resulting from the minimum contribution.

The review expresses the "intention" of equal treatment from men and women. The different retirement ages are to be replaced by a "decade of retirement" between 60 and 70, during which different individual arrangements will be possible.

More controversially, the review proposes that insurance companies should be required to provide annuities for retirement purposes on a common basis for both sexes.

A question mark also hangs over the Occupational Pensions Board, whose job of supervising the schemes in which half the working population are at present involved will have to change. However, the self-employed, provided with tax relief on pension contributions but not obliged to make any, are unaffected by the proposals.

Reading article, page 13  
Benefit of the doubt, page 12



Reforming minister: Mr Fowler in his office yesterday. (Photograph: John Voos).

TEENAGERS  
Eligibility remains unchanged in paper

There are no proposals to withdraw supplementary benefit from 16 to 18-year-olds. Although such a move, leaving them with the choice of continuing education, a job, or a place on a government training scheme, has been widely canvassed by ministers and supported by Mrs Thatcher, the Green Paper says the Government's first aim is "to establish comprehensive provision for the age group".

The proposed expansion of the Youth Training Scheme from April to provide two years' training for 16-year-olds and one year for 17-year-olds towards ensuring that unemployment among young people under 18 becomes a thing of the past.

Students, however, are to be refused access to supplementary benefit, although details will have to await the Government's consultation paper. Claims from students for supplementary benefit and housing benefit, usually for small sums, cause disproportionate administrative difficulties. "The Government believes it right, in principle, to return to the situation which existed before 1966, with students being helped through the grant system, by their families and by their own earnings."

## HOUSING

## Rate and rent aid proposals could cut £500m off benefit

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The big cash cut in housing benefit. No figures are given in the Green Paper, but proposals that will result in big reductions in help with rates, and cuts in rent assistance, suggest a cut of £500 million and possibly more in the £4.2 billion scheme.

Seven million claimants, one in three households, receive housing benefit.

Under the proposals, about 3.5 million people on supplementary benefit who have housing costs met in full will be expected to pay about 20 per cent of their rates.

Another four million people, who will include large numbers of occupational pensioners and the low paid, though not the lowest paid, will have help with rates withdrawn far more quickly, and some people will lose housing benefit altogether.

Also, local authorities, who have almost all the costs of paying and administering housing benefit met by the Government would no longer do so. The Green Paper says that housing benefit does not provide "fair treatment for all recipients. It is too complicated and while steps have been taken to cut the numbers receiving assistance, more still needs to be done."

Instead of two separate tests for eligibility, one test, the same as for the new income support scheme, will be used. A capital cut-off will be introduced so that people with more than £5,000 savings will receive no help, and benefit will be reduced on a sliding scale for those whose income is between £3,000 and £5,000.

In future, instead of six separate "tapers" for rent and rates, benefit will be withdrawn on a single taper, as income rises, for households whose income is above the new income support levels.

The Green Paper says "the treatment of rates in a reformed

housing benefit scheme will depend crucially on the final outcome of the review of local government finance". But with millions of people receiving help with rates, the link between the use of local authority services and payment for them has been "greatly weakened with a corresponding loss in local accountability".

The aim of making everyone pay at least something towards rates, though not specifically spelt out, is to discourage people on supplementary benefit voting for high-spending (and often Labour) local authorities, knowing that rate increases will not affect them.

The Green Paper says under the proposed scheme "the maximum level of support for rates for all households will be set at less than 100 per cent. The Government have in mind a figure of the order 80 per cent, though this could be revised".

That decision is directly opposed by the independent review of housing benefit, also published yesterday, chaired by Mr Jeremy Rowe, the only one of the Government's reviews not chaired by a minister.

Given variations in housing costs, over which low income households have little control, "the only fair way of providing assistance with housing costs... is to provide 100 per cent assistance with actual rents and rates to all households whose income is at or below supplementary benefit level".

Local authorities would be faced with collecting large numbers of often very small sums from ratepayers, leading to arrears and administrative costs, the report says.

To provide authorities with a greater incentive to monitor and control the costs of housing benefit, the Government proposes to repay less than 100 per cent of the costs of paying and administering the benefit.

## SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT

## Income support will replace 16,000 paragraphs of rules

The supplementary benefit system, last reformed by the Conservatives in 1980, with 16,000 paragraphs of rules on which one in eight of the population depend, is to be abolished.

It is to be replaced by a new system of income support. Existing extra weekly payments costing about £600 million a year for heating, diet, laundry and regular expenses will go.

Simple payments, for furniture, bedding, cookers, special clothing, maternity and funeral expenses, for which there are more than 1.5 million claims annually, are to be replaced by a new cash-limited "social fund".

It will make payments discretionary, rather than as of right at present. The appeal system through social security tribunals and the courts will cease.

In many cases the fund will offer loans rather than grants, repayable by weekly deductions from benefit. Appeals against decisions by the specialist staff who will run the fund will be heard by local management.

The Green Paper says a system of income support will be simpler, less intrusive and more comprehensible than the present system, but "will not provide in detail for every variation of individual circumstances". There will be many gainers as well as losers, although those on benefit will receive their current rates until the new ones catch up if new benefit levels would leave them worse off.

The key changes proposed are:

● The two rates of supplementary benefit, long-term and short-term will be abolished, as will higher rates for house-holders.

● Benefit for those aged under 25 will be out in real terms.

● A new family premium will be paid, regardless of the number of children, on top of extra amounts for each child depending on age. The age bands of 10 to 11 and 16 to 18 will be replaced by 10 to 11, 12 to 13 and 14 to 15 and over.

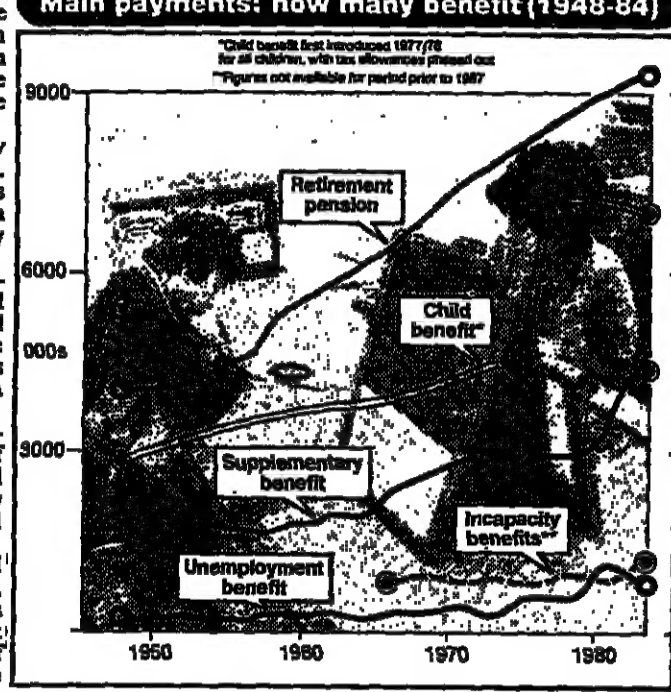
● Single parents will receive a premium, plus the "adult" over-25 rate of income support, and the family premium, expected to be worth several pounds a week.

● Pensioners will receive a premium at 60.

● Pensioners over 80 and the long-term sick and disabled will receive a higher premium.

● Single parents, disabled people and couples unemployed for two years will be allowed to earn up to £15 a week, instead of £4, without benefit being

## Main payments: how many benefit (1984-85)



affected. The aim is to encourage them to "keep in touch" with work.

● Pensioners on income support, the single unemployed and unemployed couples will be allowed to earn up to perhaps £5 a week, instead of £4, on a new basis, but work expenses will no longer be allowed in calculating the figure.

● A less rigid capital cut-off rule is to be introduced. At present, savings of £3,000 debar people from supplementary benefit. In future, that figure will be £5,000, but when assessing claims it will be assumed claimants have a weekly income for each £100 of capital above £3,000. The precise figure has to be set, but the Government "has in mind" 40p for each £100.

● Water rates will no longer be paid for separately, claimants will have to pay them from basic income support.

● Mortgage interest is unlikely to be paid for the first six months on benefit. The Green Paper is not specific but says the £170 million provided can discourage owner-occupiers from returning to work.

Talks will be held with building societies and banks to find arrangements whereby "less of the burden" for people on benefit for a short time falls on the social security system.

The new social fund will replace single payments with four elements: community care; maternity and funeral expenses; budgeting; and financial crises.

● People moving out of long-stay hospitals, parents needing to visit sick children in hospital, the elderly moving to more suitable accommodation, could all qualify for help with the payments "not normally" recoverable.

● People on low incomes will receive help with maternity and funeral expenses, with a new maternity grant, about £75 rather than the present £25.

Reasonable funeral expenses will be met but the fund will have first call on the estate.

● The "fuel direct" scheme, where the system will pay fuel debts through weekly deductions from benefit could be extended to loans for other items.

## FAMILY CREDIT

## Innovation aimed at beating the poverty trap

By Nicholas Timmins

The most innovative proposals is the abolition of Family Income Supplement, costing £130 million a year and claimed by only half the 400,000 families entitled to it. It is to be replaced by a new Family Credit. Families who are unemployed are also to receive some extra help through a new family premium.

The new credit will involve a "substantial premium" payable to families in low-paid work, plus an allowance for each child, on top of existing child benefit. The benefit will be paid for periods of six months, as opposed to a year for Family Income Supplement, and entitlement will be based on the

previous 13 weeks' earnings, as against five for FIS.

But the Green Paper claims that because the assessment will be based on housing benefit assessments, no family will lose more than £1 in benefit as the new Family Credit and housing benefit are withdrawn as income rises in low-paid work.

The credit will be paid by employers, although assessed by the DHSS, and offset against tax and national insurance payments, with an addition to gross pay if the individual's tax and national insurance are lower than the credit. Employers will deduct the extra from their total tax and NI bill.

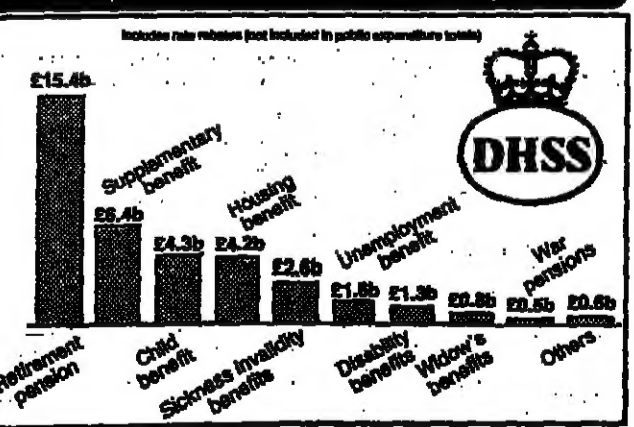
"A key feature of the scheme will be its impact on the poverty and unemployment traps," the Green Paper says.

By adopting a similar structure to the new income support and using the same net income tests as for that and housing benefit, "it should be possible both to ensure that those in work are better off than if they were not working and that the worst effects of the poverty trap are eliminated".

Family Credit, the Green Paper says, will cover a wider range of incomes than FIS and be available to anyone working more than 24 hours a week.

But the Green Paper contains a strong hint that child

## 1984/5: Where the £37.7 billion goes



## N. INSURANCE

## Rates of payment to change

By Our Economics Editor

The Fowler review makes clear the Government's intention to retain a system of national insurance contributions separate from income tax, although the issue is yet to be considered under the Treasury's review of personal taxation.

The report describes national insurance as a "social compact" through which those in work can see what they are paying for those who are not.

However, the review proposes considerable changes in contributions. At present, employers "contracted-in" to the state earnings-related pension scheme pay 10.45 per cent on earnings above the threshold (now £35.30 but about to be altered by the introduction of graduated contribution rates), while employees pay 9 per cent up to a ceiling of £265 a week.

Those "contracted-out" pay 6.35 per cent and 6.85 per cent respectively across the range of earnings covered by Serps, making a combined rate of 13.20 per cent.

Once Serps is phased out, both groups will pay a combined rate of 14.5 per cent. But the "contracted-out" employee would not receive any reduction in his contributions to a private occupational pension.

The changes in contributions will be introduced in three years from 1987, with the Government to contribute to personal schemes developing over the same period. The Fowler review estimates that the increase in private contributions will be about £750 million in 1987-88, rising to at least £1,250 million in 1989-90. These will attract tax relief, reducing revenue to the Exchequer.

Although the review makes it plain that the Government is not committed to any particular structure of contributions, it rules out abolition of the upper earnings limit for employees, which it says would give rise to "unacceptable" marginal rates of taxation. That effectively rules out fusion of income tax and national insurance.

However, it suggests that the two systems could be better aligned.

A further degree of alignment will be provided by altering the date of the annual social security update. That is to be shifted to April.

## THE PHILOSOPHY

## System almost has life of its own, Fowler says

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The £40 billion social security system has lost its way, becoming "a leviathan almost with a life of its own", the Green Paper's introduction says.

"It is too complicated; it does not always put help where help is most needed; and it does not provide as good a service to the public as we would want".

The system comprises more than 30 separate benefits, with overlapping purposes and differing entitlements and rules so complex that it is difficult to administer and at times impossible for the public to understand.

Spending has risen five fold in real terms since just after the Second World War, in part through the shifting of housing support and child benefit to the social security system. But on present policies spending will increase by between £5 billion and £8 billion in real terms over the next 20 years, assuming benefits rise only in line with prices.

If they rose by 1.5 per cent a year ahead of prices, to

maintain the record of gradual improvements in the living standards of those on benefits, the extra costs in 20 years would be between £16 billion and £20 billion, the Green Paper says, a real increase of between 45 and 55 per cent in the budget.

If the state earnings-related pension scheme remains, by the year 2033, it would add another £23 billion to spending.

The proposals, with the phased abolition of Serps, the introduction of a common means-test for housing benefit, the income support scheme which replaces supplementary benefit, and for the new family credit, will make it more worthwhile for individuals to work and save.

The Green Paper is in four volumes available from HMSO. Volumes One, *Reform of Social Security* (£3.00) sets out broad principles. Volume Two, *Same title*, sets out the *Programme for Change* (£6.60), contains the detailed proposals. Volume Three (£10.50) is background papers, and the report of the separate Housing Benefit Review, is volume four (£6.10).

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## PENSIONS

## Insurers welcome scheme

By Richard Thomson

The proposal to phase out Serps was greeted yesterday with wide approval by the life insurance industry, the main provider of pension schemes.

However, the industry gave a warning of great potential dangers if a new political consensus on pension provisions does not result from the Government's proposals.

The Life Offices Association and the Association of Scottish Life Offices, representing most life assurance companies in Britain, said that a long period of political uncertainty over pensions would be damaging both to the public and to the pensions industry.

The associations said that the transition from Serps to a new system of privately-based schemes would not be easy. There was a danger that unacceptable anomalies would arise in the eventual benefits received by different sectors of employees, such as those currently contracted in and those contracted out of Serps.

However, the industry eagerly welcomed the Government's proposals to let all employees take out their own personal pension schemes. If they wished, Mr Paul Bateman of Savie & Prosper said: "This will lead to an explosion of sales of personal pensions which are likely to become the biggest invested sector of Britain's wealth".

Although confident that they would be able to cope with the new pensions arrangements, many companies believed that the requirement to treat men and women equally would lead to a general rise in the cost of pension provision. At present women pay more for the same benefits because they live longer.

There was also concern that the proposals did not make it obligatory for employers to take out some form of pension provision.

## SOCIAL FUND

## Death grant to be abolished

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The £30 death grant, paid about 600,000 times a year, is to be abolished, with help for funeral expenses coming from the new social fund. The maternity grant, worth £25, and paid to all 700,000 others a year, is also to be made part of the new fund and restricted to those on the new income support and Family Credit. The amount is "likely to be around £75".

Maternity allowance, worth £27.25 a week and paid to 350,000 mothers a year is also to be subjected to tougher tests. At present, many women who last worked two or more years before the baby was due, can qualify.

The death grant, not uprated since 1967, makes an "insignificant" contribution towards the cost of even a simple funeral, the Green Paper says. It costs £29 million a year.

The total cost of funerals is more than £250 million, the state's contribution, including single payments totalling £2.5 million to those on supplementary benefit, totals £20 million.

The payments, however, will be recoverable as the charge against an estate, or from the relative who arranged the funeral.

Widow's benefits, one of the most complex areas of social security, are also to be reshaped, with the widow's allowance, worth £50.10 a week for the first 26 weeks, plus £7.65 for each dependent child, in addition to child benefit, is to be replaced with a single "substantial" lump-sum payment, which will "probably" be £1,000. That lump sum - worth £300 less than the allowance over the 26 weeks - should help all widows cope with the immediate financial worries they face.

Widowed mother's allowance, payable for children aged up to 19, will be paid from the time of bereavement rather than after six months.

## TIMETABLE

## White Paper in autumn

The Government plans to introduce its main reforms in April 1987. A social security Bill will be introduced in November.

First, however, the conclusions on the Green Paper proposals - many of which the Government is set on introducing - will be set out in a White Paper in the early autumn.

Consultation is open until September 16. But as the reforms come in, the Government plans a permanent change in the timing of the uprating of benefits.

Instead of being uprated in November, future upratings will be in April, to coincide with tax

changes, and allowing local authorities to make only one, instead of two, changes to housing benefit a year.





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## Papandreou to streamline his Cabinet after Greek vote of confidence

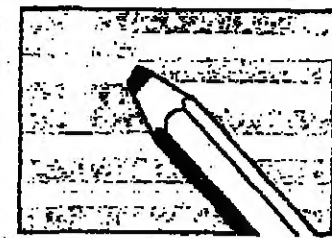
From Mario Modiano, Athens

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Greek Prime Minister, whose ruling Pasok socialist won an easy victory in Sunday's elections, plans to set up a 10-member Cabinet tomorrow to streamline the Government and increase its efficiency.

He said he would call on President Sartzetakis later today to inform him of the official election results and submit the resignation of the outgoing Government, consisting of 53 ministers and their deputies. "It is outdated and unworkable," he said.

The results mean that Pasok will control 161 of the 300 seats in the new Parliament, fewer than in 1981, but enough to uphold a one-party government without having to lean on the Communists for support.

Election analysts attribute the Socialist victory to a last minute switch of Communist voters frightened by the consequences of a conservative return to power. This trend, they pointed out, did not show in the last pre-election polls and may be attributed to the impressive show of force staged by New Democracy in its Athens campaign rally on Thursday night, as well as the assumed impact of former President Karamanlis's message indirectly supporting the conservative camp.



Mr Harilaos Florakis, the KKE's Communist secretary

general, referred to this massive defection of Communist voters, attributing it to the "scare" campaign and the intimidating dilemmas posed by Pasok. The Socialist warned the left that if the right wing were to return to power it would re-impose a police state with whose oppressive practices they were only too familiar. There is no evidence that the switch had been induced, or Moscow-inspired as some quarters suggest, rather than spontaneous.

The drift of left-wing voters toward Pasok, which fully vindicated Mr Papandreou's abrupt left turn last March, almost obliterated the small Euro-Communist Party which was left with a modest 1.8 per cent of the total vote. One consolation perhaps was that its charismatic leader, Mr Leonidas Kyrkos, won the party's single seat in the new parliament.

The defection of the Communists, which was heaviest in the urban centres, allowed the Socialists to recover much of the lost ground from last year's European elections. It is now clear that the sudden loss of popularity by the Socialists then was in the nature of a warning from disgruntled voters of the cities, rather than notice of defection.

The paradox in this election is that New Democracy, which came second in the election contest, also scored significant gains. Although some of them came as a trickle of dissatisfied centrists from Pasok, the bulk of its gains came at the expense of the far right, which retained this time a low 0.6 per cent.

This was the direct result of polarization engendered also by the new electoral system. It was mainly thanks to a bonus of seats from the third distribution, given to the front-runner, that the Socialists secured the overall majority in the new chamber which opens on June 17.

Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, leader of New Democracy, conceded defeat yesterday, but attributed Pasok's victory to the manner in which the party has abused the state machinery and the mass media controlled by it to increase its influence. He said, however, that the Greek people had made its choice.

Mr Mitsotakis, who has refused to recognize the legality of President Sartzetakis's election, had said that this issue would be determined by the people's vote. Now that the vote has come out in favour of the Socialists who chose the new President, it is assumed that the Opposition leader will agree to have at least a working relationship with the head of state.

Leading article, page 13

	General election '81	European election '84	Election '85
PASOK	43.07	172	41.58
New Democracy	36.97	115	38.05
KKE (Communists)	10.93	13	11.04
NKK-Interior	1.34	—	3.42
EPEN (far right)	—	—	2.29
Others	3.78	—	3.02

1985 results with 56 of the 14,728 polling stations unaccounted for.

## The man and his methods

The ample majority won by Mr Andreas Papandreou at the polls on Sunday was his reward for managing to impart to the average Greek in the last four years a new sense of national and political emancipation that holds out the promise of better days.

It was the vindication of an apparently Sisyphean task begun 25 years ago when Mr Papandreou sought to weave into the hardened fabric of a deeply conformist Greek society the radical ideas formulated while spending 20 years teaching in liberal American university campuses.

Political oppression had driven him out of Greece, when at the age of 20 he was beaten up by the police of the Venizelos dictatorship for joining a Trotskyist student group. Once in the US, a combination of hard work and a brilliant mind won him academic distinction as an economist.

He was lured back to Greece and its politics by his late father, George Papandreou, on the eve of a landslide election victory for his Centre Union party in 1964. He became a key

minister in his father's Cabinet, but his rapid rise divided the party, while his radical sermons alarmed the establishment.

Perhaps it is fateful irony that the key man in the mass defections from the Centre Union that followed the downfall of old Papandreou in 1965 was Mr Constantine Mitsotakis, who, in Sunday's elections, was his main adversary as leader of New Democracy, the opposition conservatives.

The military dictatorship imposed in 1967 largely to block Papandreou's rise to power released him from prison after strong American pressure. He lived in exile until the junta collapsed in 1974.

Returning to Greece, he founded the Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasok) and organized it in a methodical manner that was new to Greece and certainly in sharp contrast to the arrogant complacency with which the ruling conservatives practised the patronage system to perpetuate their rule.

By identifying his movement with the underprivileged and the oppressed, he managed to

## Washington fears for Nato bases

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The United States will seek early clarification from Mr Papandreou on whether he intends to go ahead with a threat to close four US military bases considered vital to Nato's south-eastern flank.

President Reagan sent a congratulatory letter to Mr Papandreou yesterday. The White House spokesman said Mr Papandreou "has indicated he would like to improve relations and we hope he will".

American officials draw a measure of optimism from the fact that Mr Papandreou did not make the bases an issue in the election campaign.

● MOSCOW: Tass welcomed Mr Papandreou's win as a "victory for progressive forces" in both Greece and Europe as a whole. Diplomats said the Kremlin obviously hoped Mr Papandreou would now go ahead with his threat to close down the bases. The Russians

hope a second Papandreou term will weaken Nato's southern flank.

● ANKARA: Mr Turget Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, warned of "trouble" if Mr Papandreou should attempt to implement his pledged policies against Turkey.

● LONDON: Mr Neil Kinnock sent a congratulatory message to Mr Papandreou, saying his win was a "great vote of confidence".

## Killer Gun shown at plot trial

From Peter Nichols, Rome

A formidable silent witness was brought yesterday before the court trying the case of the eight Turks and Bulgarians accused of conspiring to murder the Pope, in the Swiss glass factory at Olten. He is among the accused at this trial, but is facing the comparatively minor offence of being illegally in possession of an offensive weapon.

The near-fatal shots were fired from this gun on May 13, 1981 in St Peter's Square by Mehmet Ali Agca, the Turkish terrorist now serving a life sentence in an Italian prison. He is among the accused at this trial, but is facing the comparatively minor offence of being illegally in possession of an offensive weapon.

After the many photographs one has seen of it in the terrorist's hand, the pistol looks unexpectedly small. What is noticeable is the size of the bullet it fires, a projectile obviously intended to do damage simply by the seriousness of the wound it would cause wherever it struck its victim.

The pistol made its appearance during the questioning of Mr Omer Bagci the Turk who worked in a Swiss glass factory at Olten. He is accused of having looked after the pistol for Agca and then to have brought it into Italy for him a few days before the attempt on the Pope's life.

Like much of Mr Bagci's testimony, his reaction when he saw the pistol was vague and



Mr Bagci: Accused of carrying gun used against Pope.

uncertain. He does not deny, however, that he looked after a packet which may well have contained his pistol until he was instructed to give it back to Agca.

## Peres says troops will stay behind in Lebanon

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has publicly confirmed reports that an unspecified number of Israeli troops will remain in southern Lebanon after the long awaited final withdrawal, scheduled for later this week.

In a radio interview broadcast by the French station Europe 1, Mr Peres pledged that the last stage of the pull-back, originally agreed on January 14, would be completed this week to coincide with Thursday's third anniversary of the 1982 invasion.

The war in Lebanon will be completely over, the Prime Minister said. "This will be the end of the war in Lebanon. There will be no Israeli Army units on Lebanese soil."

However, a serious question was raised about Israel's continuing cross-border involvement when Mr Peres stated with a deliberate note of vagueness: "For several weeks, we will keep individual soldiers (in Lebanon) to help the South Lebanese Army (SLA) but no figure has been decided."

Shia Muslim guerrillas have already threatened an all-out battle to try and disband the SLA and totally end Israel's involvement.

Observers believe that Israel's intention of retaining a presence in the "security zone" — which at one point stretches 15 miles north into the Lebanese territory — is one reason why this week's final retreat is being turned into such a low key affair.

Many Western diplomats are openly sceptical about the "troops but no more units" formula expounded by Mr Peres.

Senior Israeli officers still serving in southern Lebanon



Sitting tight: Soldiers of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army exercising in an old tank before taking over the border "security zone" when the Israelis withdraw.

said there would be no ceremonies to mark the pull-back and none of the symbolic lowering of the Star of David associated with Israel's earlier retreat on the occupied Sinai Peninsula.

"In no way can leaving Lebanon be regarded as a glorious affair, or a move like leaving Sinai which offered the chance of peace," one said.

Already, the Israelis have informed sympathetic local leaders in south Lebanon that up to 500 Israeli "advisers"

may be involved in assisting the SLA, which is expected to face violent opposition from the Shia Muslim Amal organization.

In addition, United Nations officers serving in south Lebanon have recently reported a number of instances of Israeli military vehicles being hastily repainted in the distinctive military grey used by SLA.

The UN officers admit that because the SLA men wear Israeli uniforms, fire Israeli weapons, eat Israeli rations and

on some occasions speak Hebrew — just as their Israeli advisers sometimes speak Arabic — identifying who is who after Thursday will be difficult, if not impossible.

Yesterday, Israeli and SLA troops mounted a combined search and arrest operation in the south Lebanon village of Majdel Salim in which two local houses were destroyed and dozens of villagers arrested. UN officers were barred from entering during the operation.

## Camp battles keep Red Cross at bay

From Richard Dowden, Beirut

The battle between Shia Muslim Amal fighters and Palestinians in the south Beirut camps continued yesterday.

In the Bourj el-Barajneh and Chaita camps there was sporadic shooting. Police said two people had been killed and 19 wounded. For the first time in three days the Red Cross was unable to enter the camps to take out wounded.

On the Green Line which divides Muslim and Christian parts of the city, police said one person was killed and five were wounded, including Major Jean-Louis Kohler, a French observer, who was shot in the foot.

Colonel Antoine Devireux, the French commander, said the headquarters of the 57-man

observer force had been under fire for some days but he did not know who was shooting at them.

At the el-Hilweh camp near Sidon, Palestinian leaders gave Amal until seven o'clock last night to release one of their leaders who was seized on Sunday. Mr Abdul Fehad Omran, the local leader to the popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, General Command, had been seized as he was visiting relatives outside the camp.

Around the camp new ramps have been thrown up in recent days. A Palestinian spokesman said they were ready to fight Amal if necessary. "We will not give up our arms to any power in the world."

## Shamir and Howe agree to differ on PLO

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel's Foreign Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, is understood to have told Britain that his Government could not support Middle East peace talks with members of the Palestine National Council.

At a 24 hour meeting with Sir Geoffrey Howe, which the Foreign Office later described as "friendly and uninhibited," the right-wing deputy to Mr Shimon Peres in Israel's ruling coalition, made clear that he saw the PNC as simply the "parliament" of the Palestine Liberation Organization, and thus no more acceptable.

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, has asked for Israeli support for peace talks involving the United States on the one hand and a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the other.

The State Department has been in contact with Israel following the talks last week in Washington between President

Reagan and King Hussein of Jordan.

The suggestion has also been made that members of the PNC might take part as a compromise which might just be acceptable to the Israelis and also to the Palestinian people.

Yesterday's meeting, followed by lunch, was said to be remarkably good-tempered, despite British impatience with Israeli intransigence.

Nor was the calm ruffled by a British refusal to give way on any of the three Israeli demands which are raised at almost every contact between the two governments.

These are for a removal of the British arms embargo on Israel; a decision by Britain to sell North Sea oil to Israel and, most of all, a promise by Britain to have nothing to do with the Arab trade boycott.

The first of these, the arms embargo, should be nearly at an end

## Philippines

By Caroline Nicorehead

An active trade unionist in his early thirties called José Británico has been on trial on and off, with continual postponements, since January 1983.

He is accused, with more than 20 others, of conspiring to commit rebellion and with the illegal possession of ammunition and subversive documents. A judge is reported to have said that the trial may last into 1986.

Mr Británico was working as a sample maker at the Redon Textile Manufacturing Corporation when he was arrested on September 11, 1982, one of a number of union leaders detained in a great sweep against union activists in the Metro Manila area.

By the end of that summer, some 40 organizers, belonging to the independent trade union confederation PMF, to which Británico's Redon Labour Association was indirectly affiliated, had been taken into custody.

These detentions had been sparked off by an increase in all trade union activity, including calls for better conditions and better pay, which followed the ending of martial law in January 1981.

According to the military authorities, however, some of these independent unions were merely fronts for the banned Communist Party.

The slowness of Mr Británico's hearing is typical of judicial procedures against political prisoners in the Philippines today.

So are the charges of violent offences, though no witnesses have been found to substantiate them.

## Raiders kill British couple in Nairobi

Nairobi (AP) — A British couple and a security guard were shot dead in a robbery attempt at the couple's home in a Nairobi suburb, the British High Commission reported.

The Britons were Kevin Craig-McFeely, aged 56, an architect who was formerly chief city planner for Nairobi, and his wife, Carla, aged 64. The guard was a Kenyan employed by a private firm.

According to Nairobi newspaper accounts, a gang of about 10 men invaded the Craig-McFeely compound in the suburb of Karen between 10 and 11 pm on Saturday and shot the couple when Mr Craig-McFeely shouted to them to go away.

The housekeeper summoned four security guards, one of whom was fatally wounded by the escaping raiders.

## Hotels strike hits New York

New York (NYT) Negotiations for scores of New York City's largest hotels and 14,000 striking employees agreed to resume contract talks yesterday after a weekend of noisy picketing disrupted services and inconvenience for thousands of guests.

Hotels remained open, and were providing some services, with managers and 4,000 new-hired workers filling in for striking maids, bellhops, bartenders, waiters and chefs.

## British success

New York (AP) — Derek Jacob, the British actor, won the Tony award for best actor on Broadway for his role as Benedict in *Much Ado About Nothing*. Stockard Channing was named best actress for her part in *Joe Egg*.

## Journalist shot

Manila (Reuters) — Manny Julian, aged 28, who worked for a magazine and taught journalism at university, was shot dead inside a cinema in Davao City in the southern Philippines. He was the fourteenth Philippines journalist to be killed in six years.

## Falcons charge

Reykjavik (Reuters) — A 35-year-old West German has been arrested on charges of attempting to smuggle falcons — Iceland's national symbol — out of the country. Police said customs officers found three four-day-old falcons hidden in a false drinks case.

## Mother killed

Naples (AP) — A bomb killed the 65-year-old mother of a Camorra gangster turned police informer and injured his sister-in-law as the victims slept in a mobile home near here. The dead woman was identified as Francesca Pandico, mother of Giovanni Pandico.

## Appeals fail

Taipei (AFP) — The High Court here upheld life sentences imposed on a reputed gangland boss, Chen Chi-li, and his lieutenant Wu Tun for murdering the Chinese-American writer, Henry Liu in California last year. Lawyers for the two said they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

## Cheap cabbage

Peking (AP) — State-run vegetable shops here have cut prices by nearly a third to soothe consumers upset by shortages and rising prices. Municipal authorities have resumed subsidizing prices of cabbage, cucumber and tomatoes.

## Death penalty

Kuala Lumpur (AP) — A judge sentenced a car salesman to death for trafficking in 177.3 grams (6.25 oz) of heroin. Since 1975, 30 people have been hanged for dealing in drugs.

## French Opposition squabbles

## Barre tirade rocks unity boat

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Only a week before the three main French opposition leaders are due to come together to speak for the first time from the same platform in what had been hoped would be a great display of right-wing unity, M Raymond Barre has again made all too apparent the deep underlying divisions within the Opposition.

No sooner had the neo-Gaullist RPR proudly unveiled its 10-point manifesto for next year's parliamentary elections before a gathering of 5,000 party faithful outside Paris on Saturday, than M Barre was denouncing those who made "demagogic and unrealistic promises" in order to win elections. He was addressing an equally large crowd of his own sympathizers near Paris on Sunday.

No names were named, but the target was clear, as Mr Bernard Pons, former secretary-general of the RPR, was among the first to recognize. He was "astounded and saddened" to hear M Barre indulging in the same "little games of caricature" the party's policies" as were usually only played by the Socialists. "Where does he want it all to end?" M Pons said.

M Barre, who is embarrassingly far ahead of his two main rivals — M Jacques Chirac and M Valéry Giscard d'Estaing — in the opinion polls, had not helped matters by declaring publicly for the first time on Friday, in a long interview in *L'Express* magazine, that he would be prepared to stand in the next presidential elections.

In the same interview, and again on Sunday, M Barre reaffirmed his total opposition to any prospect of a right-wing government "cohabiting" with a Socialist president in the event of an Opposition victory in next year's elections.

M Chirac and M Giscard d'Estaing have both taken an equally firm stand on the need for the Opposition to assume its "responsibilities" and take over the reins of government as soon as possible. Indeed, the launching on Saturday of the RPR's manifesto, described as a "pact with France", was intended as a

clear manifestation of that commitment, at least as far as M Chirac was concerned.

The manifesto, which confirms the party's shift to the right since 1981, promises to take immediate action on coming to power to lift price and exchange controls; to privatize industries nationalized by the Socialists; to cut taxes by 40 billion francs (£3.3 billion) and slash government spending proportionally; and to proportionally make it easier to lay off redundant workers.

The party's aim was "to replace a straight-jacketed economy by a free economy in order to promote recovery," M Chirac said. Soon after, however, M Barre was issuing a warning against those who believed that a change of government and a series of cuts and decrees would be enough to lead to rapid economic recovery and falling unemployment.

Needless to say, the Socialists are delighted with all this public squabbling among their opponents.

## Marchais joins battle over banned television film

From Our Own Correspondent Paris

Mr Georges Marchais, the French Communist leader, has accused the Government of being behind an anti-Communist campaign designed to break the party. Government opposition to the decision to ban from French television a film critical of the Communist Party's role during the Second World War was part of that campaign, he said.

Last week, M Georges Filhoud, Minister for Communications, took the unusual step of accusing of censorship the very organization which the Government had set up three years ago to oversee the independence of television and radio in France, after it had given advice that the film *Terrorists in Retreat* should not be shown on French television.

In providing such an opinion, the Audiovisual High Authority, an independent watchdog of nine "wise men", had exceeded the powers under which it was set up in 1982, he said.

"The presidents and administrative councils of the television channels... must be, and must remain, the sole judges of the

quality of a programme and of the conditions under which viewers may be shown a controversial account of a painful moment of our history, organizing, if necessary, a debate in which the contrary point of view may be expressed," M Filhoud said.

The film, which was to have been shown on the Second Channel on Sunday night, traces the history of a pre-dominantly Jewish group of immigrant Communist resistance fighters in Paris during the last war.

From the outset, the Communist Party took severe exception to the film suggestion that it could, and should, have done more to save the Manouchian group.

M Claude Héberlé, president of the Second Channel, sought the advice of the high authority, which set up a "jury" of former resistance fighters.

The jury advised against the showing on the grounds that it cast an unwarranted slur on the whole of the resistance movement. Mr Héberlé decided not to show the film.







# STANSTED



## THE REALITIES WHICH CANNOT BE IGNORED

The Secretary of State for Transport has expressly denied rumours that the Government has firmly opted for Stansted as London's third airport.

So there is still room for reason to have its say and a once and for all opportunity to bring forward an air transport policy which is truly in the national interest. And there has never been a time when such a policy has been so necessary and would be so welcome by the regions of this country where reality is dominated by unemployment, low economic activity and social disparity. (In the North unemployment approaches 20%; redundancies are 121 per 1,000 employees, and in some regions 50% of the unemployed have been out of work for over a year. Yet the Environment Secretary is still being urged to relax the

planning system to encourage further growth in the South East).

A major Stansted development would drive an even deeper wedge between North and South. It would also waste £1,000 million of public money on duplicating facilities already existing at our regional airports.

In our submission, a realistic Government response to the Stansted proposal which would be welcomed by many millions living outside the South East would embody:

1. Modest development of Stansted, so it can serve its own catchment area as an efficient regional airport.
2. Every encouragement for Heathrow to achieve its full potential.
3. An end to the threat of unfair competi-

tion against regional airports by a heavily subsidised Stansted.

4. Unrestricted access to the regional airports for all carriers wishing to use them.

5. Overseas promotion of regional tourist attractions.

These five points form a framework for a balanced airports policy safeguarding the interests of the whole nation – not just the South East. It would be a step towards parity of treatment for regions which at present suffer a grossly disproportionate burden of the nation's unemployment.

The regions are not asking for more money, but simply a chance to let our airports do the job for which they were created. Answer the Stansted proposals with fairness and realism!

This message has been presented for the urgent consideration of Parliament by the North of England Regional Consortium, representing all shades of political, commercial and public opinion and comprising:

The County Councils of Cheshire, Cleveland, Cumbria, Derbyshire, Durham, Greater Manchester, Humberside, Lancashire, Merseyside, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

The City Councils of Carlisle, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield.

The Airport Authorities of Blackpool, Carlisle, Humberside, Leeds/Bradford, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle and Teesside.

If you would like to receive further information on the issues covered by this announcement, please write to: North of England Regional Consortium, P.O. Box 532, Town Hall, Manchester M60 2LA.

*the case for the*  
**NORTH**  
North of England Regional Consortium



## SPECTRUM

## A licence to watch over the world

John Ginnwright

Over there, says Donald Gamlen, pointing to the side of a large conifer in his leafy Hampshire garden. "You'll find Intelsat. There is ECS - and this is Gorizont."

With a light push, he swings the dish aerial perched outside the first floor of his house, points it 14° west of south into a brilliant summer sky and Russian television, with perfect colour and sound, appears on the set in the corner of the room.

The technical complexities and jargon which bedevil satellite television tend to be forgotten when one faces the reality of the medium in action. In a few minutes, Mr Gamlen is able to demonstrate the astonishing range of services open to anyone with the ability - and right - to receive them.

Switching through his satellite receiver, he picks up a cycle race in Italy, a Swiss entertainment service, and a new Belgian current affairs channel which he finds for the first time.

Then there are the English language channels: non-stop pop from the Music channel, films from TEN and Premiere, the children's channel Jack in the Box and a sports network, Screen Sport, all of them principally designed for reception by cable networks. There is also talk of Moskva, the Russian service, introducing sub-titles in English, a prospect Mr Gamlen is anxiously awaiting.

"It's the most interesting to watch - the character of the Russians comes through and you get a very good impression of the vastness of the country. The opera and ballet are wonderful." Moskva was having one of its lean patches during our visit - a literary luncheon marked by much intellectual back-slapping was followed by a modernistic film on the manufacture of textiles.

But the range of channels in this Hampshire study are a measure of the earth-shaking developments facing television viewers and the industry which serves them over the next few years. Receiving programmes from the sky may take a degree of technical knowledge at the moment and demand expensive equipment which is not yet mass-produced, but it is not for hobbyists in the way that CB or ham radio is.

Satellite television will become a mass medium, if it is allowed to. In the wealthy Spanish city of Palma on Majorca, British expatriates are already queuing up to buy ready-made satellite systems to view channels which are largely barred to those living back home.

Today the medium is a bewildering mixture of high-tech and back-garden bodging. Donald Gamlen's electronic expertise enabled him to set up his system without outside help, but the job of changing channels - and satellites - can have its comic dimensions. One aerial - covering the Russian satellite and the European "bird" - sits outside

With the growth in sophistication of satellites and aerials, says David Hewson, we shall soon be tuning in to television stations around the globe

the window on scaffolding. A degree of agility 20 feet above the ground is required to shift the dish to the required position for either satellite. In his back garden, a further dish is tuned permanently to a second European satellite, necessitating the trimming of an overhanging oak tree. But this "bird" transmits two types of signals - one vertical, one horizontal - and to switch between the two, Mr Gamlen must shimmy up a 15-foot ladder to adjust the low noise amplifier at the heart of the dish.

The rapid advance of satellite reception technology is making these physical jerks obsolete. Aerial motors and bi-directional amplifiers will mean that the perennial problem of today's satellite watcher - having to brave the rain to find something more interesting to watch - will be a thing of the past.

Astonishing as it may seem it was illegal, until recently, for Britons to receive satellite transmissions. A few, like Mr Gamlen, were given experimental licences, but a concerted lobby of vested interests has fought to keep the reception of international television out of the hands of the general public.

Low-powered satellite transmissions

have been used by television companies since the 1960s for sending signals from one region to another.

They have been aimed principally at transmissions between broadcasters, and not from television stations directly to viewers. But technology has raced ahead of the political ability to control its consequences.

The medium was originally envisaged as a means of disseminating programmes to large cable networks throughout Europe at a time when it seemed inconceivable that individuals could afford the right equipment. Now anyone with around £1,500 to spend can receive the transmissions and the cost should halve in the next 12 months.

The Government has been under some natural pressure to allow its citizens to tune into the channels beamed above their heads. After all, broadcasting restrictions normally cover the transmission of material, not its reception. Until two weeks ago, it was a specific criminal offence to watch the innocuous output of a European television channel, simply because a consortium of vested interests wanted to strangle at birth satellite broadcasts which were outside their own control.

Two weeks ago, after concerted pressure from industry and mindful of the fact that illegal satellite reception was already growing, the Department of Trade and Industry finally announced a degree of liberalization of the reception laws. No longer was it to be an offence for the individual to receive a low-powered satellite broadcast.

In a somewhat grudging statement, the DTI announced that it will license low-powered satellite reception systems, even on an individual basis, though it added pessimistically that because of cost "it seems unlikely that this facility will be taken up in the short-term by many members of the general public". It was wrong. Satellite TV Antenna systems, a British company geared up for the liberalization which had previously been selling its products abroad, has been inundated with individual inquiries since the relaxation was announced.

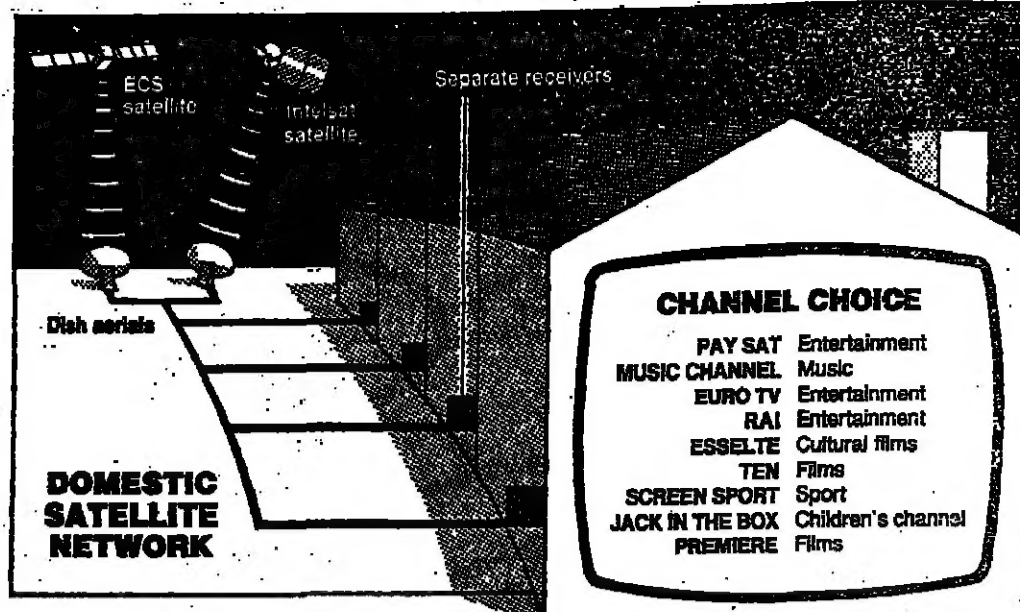
But how de-regulated is the new policy? For the individual, completely. A £10 licence, planning permission for a dish aerial, and the necessary equipment are all that is needed.

Where the policy is considerably less adventurous is in the area of small cable systems, possibly ones of four or five houses where a group of neighbours pool their resources to form a common network. The DTI wants to protect the larger cable business which has been going through decidedly sticky times. So any system serving more than one household will require a licence from the Cable Authority and will find its conditions severely restricted. Licences will be granted for shorter periods of time than is given to the big systems; and if a large operator does arrive in the area eventually, the neighbours will have to cease operating.

The threat of withdrawal may well turn out to be a bluff. Mr Peter Gray, managing director of Satellite TV Antenna Systems, commented: "It doesn't matter what the Government says, satellite is here. Do you really think people who pay to put in a satellite dish today are going to take it out in five years so that someone can dig up their garden to put in a cable?"

In the leafy glades of Hampshire, Mr Gamlen also feels that the technological innovations have gained a momentum which cannot be matched by bureaucratic attempts to control it.

"If you look back at the early days of radio, people used to tune in to the whole of Europe. Who does that now? This is where there is real scope. When you watch all these channels for a while, your policy becomes one of live and let live. When I watch the Russian channel, which is the most interesting, it doesn't frighten me. It just makes me think I should keep my powder dry. I know that if we don't get a free hand ourselves for industry and commerce in this area, we will be left behind."



## Low-down on high-tech transmissions

With the right equipment, anyone who has access to a clear space to the sky can receive satellite television services. There are two ways you can approach the venture - as an individual, or in combination with your neighbours.

Individually: first obtain your licence from the Department of Industry, Room 513, Waterloo Bridge House, Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UA, price £10. Planning regulations are now being changed which may mean that you need planning permission for your dish aerial of 1.5 to 1.8 metres. Once you have these, you need a satellite receiver and associated electronics, which should cost around £1,000 and £500 for a dish aerial. If you want to receive foreign stations which use a different colour system to that in Britain, your set will require a SECAM converter. Either buy an export model TV set capable of dealing with PAL colour and SECAM (JVC, and Luxor are among the manufacturers who make such models for around £500), or find an electronics dealer who will insert a SECAM decoder into your existing set which could cost up to £100.

Communally: apply to the Cable Authority for a licence. They can be found at Gillingham House, 38-44 Gillingham Street, London SW1V 1HU.

You will need to decide at an early stage the shape of your system. It would be possible to

have one aerial and one receiver feeding a number of houses, but this would leave the choice of channel in the hands of the household possessing the receiver. A reasonable compromise would be for each household to own a receiver and associated electronics (£1,000 each) and to share two aerials, one tuned to Intelsat and one to ECS (total cost £1,000). This would enable every household to tune to any station on both satellites. If you want to receive foreign stations, each television would need a SECAM set or converter (see preceding paragraph). But if one receiver on the system did not have the converter, it would not affect the reception of the other members.

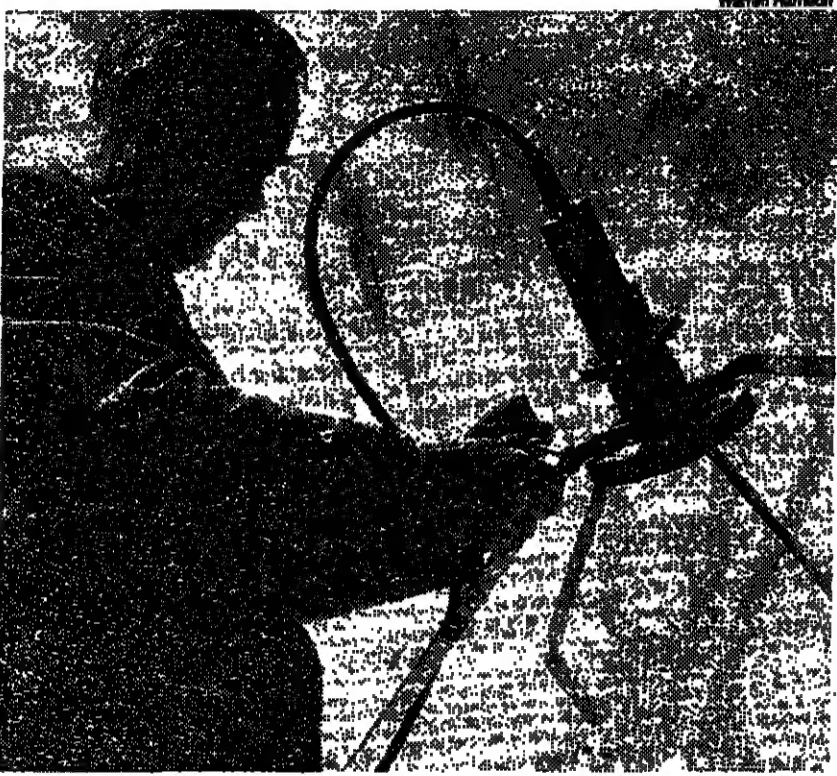
Aerials: at the moment these vary between 1.3m and 1.5m in diameter. They will get smaller and cheaper. At the moment, they tend to be adjusted manually to find the necessary satellite. By the end of the year, however, motorized versions should be on sale which will automatically seek a sky location when you press a channel number on your television remote control. Bear in mind, however, that a communal system using more than one satellite will still require one dish per transmission. If everyone on the network is to have a full choice of channels.

Satellites available: the British viewer currently has three choices. The oldest one is the Russian satellite Gorizont which carries the Moskva culture channel. It runs on a different frequency to the rest and requires additional equipment. Intelsat runs on the more conventional 11GHz band and transmits four unscrambled English services: TEN, Premiere, Jack in the Box and Screen Sport. More channels, including the American news network CNN, are on the way though they may be scrambled, as is News International's Sky Channel, to prevent reception by unauthorized users.

ECS, or the European Communications Satellite, has five unscrambled channels: a Swiss entertainment network, a British 24-hour pop music channel, Dutch and Italian entertainment networks, and a Belgian cultural channel.

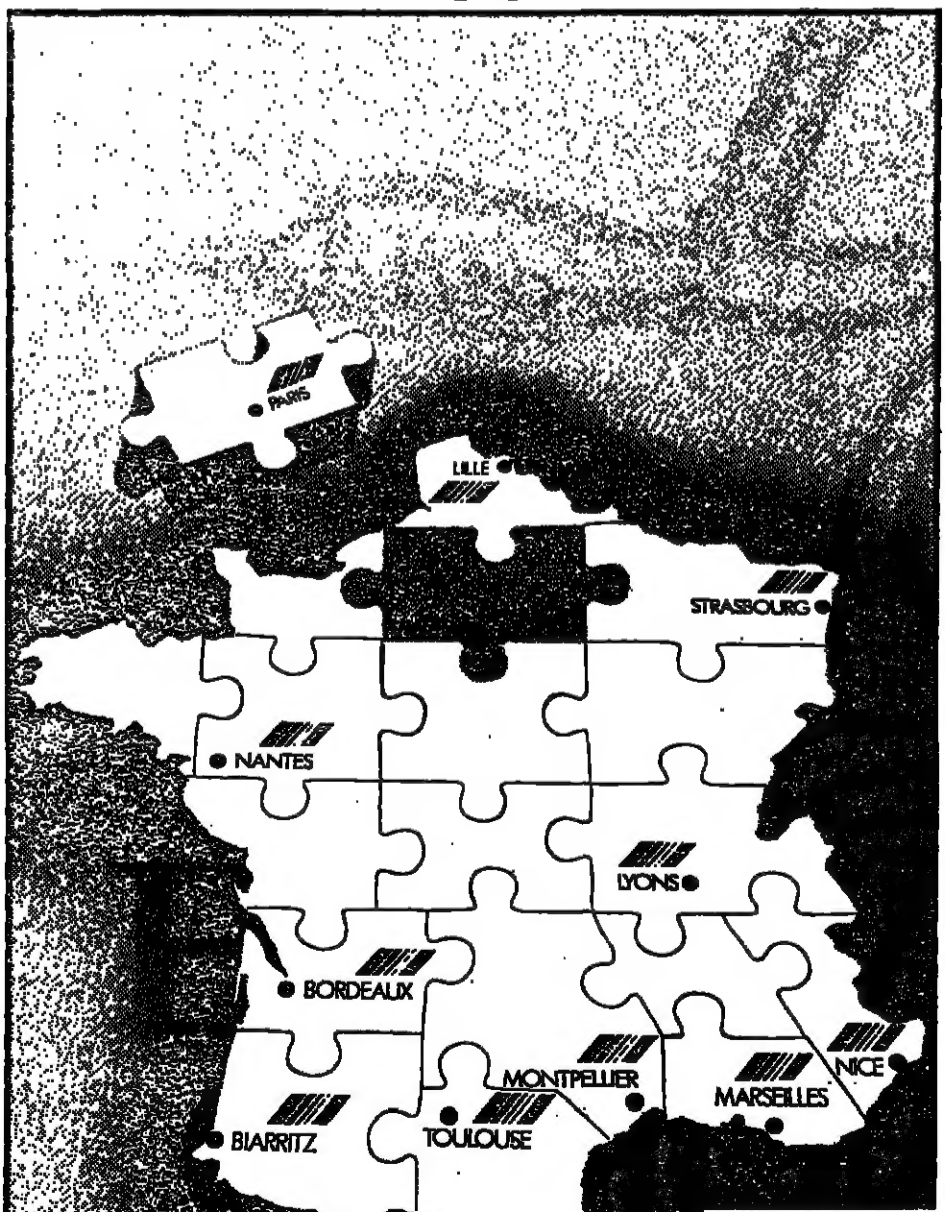
New channels are expected on both ECS and Intelsat, and it seems prudent to invest in 11 GHz technology and not the 4GHz of Gorizont.

Copyright: satellite systems suppliers often collect subscriptions of up to £3 a month for film channels such as TEN and Premiere. Other channels carry notices asking anyone who watches them to write to their headquarters for permission to continue doing so. The legal position for anyone who refuses to pay a subscription is untested. While these offenders may well be in breach of copyright, the task of tracking them down could prove extremely difficult.



Fine tuning: Donald Gamlen adjusting a television aerial

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## TALKBACK

## United in a lack of faith

From Nicolas Walter, Rationalist Press Association, 88 Islington High Street, London, N1. Serena Sutcliffe need not feel "set apart by a lack of faith".

In the words of her Comment. As an atheist, she is one of about 10 per cent of the population (as many as Roman Catholics, and more than all the non-Christian religions put together); about another 10 per cent have no positive religious belief so something like 10 million people in this country share her lack of faith.

Contrary to her Comment, we are not a "wretched band", and we suffer no "anguish", we have plenty of "joy in our lot", and we do want more people "to join our ranks".

We have a strong "sense of belonging" and "solidarity" in a sceptical tradition which is older and wider than Christianity and in a freethought movement that has existed for several centuries.

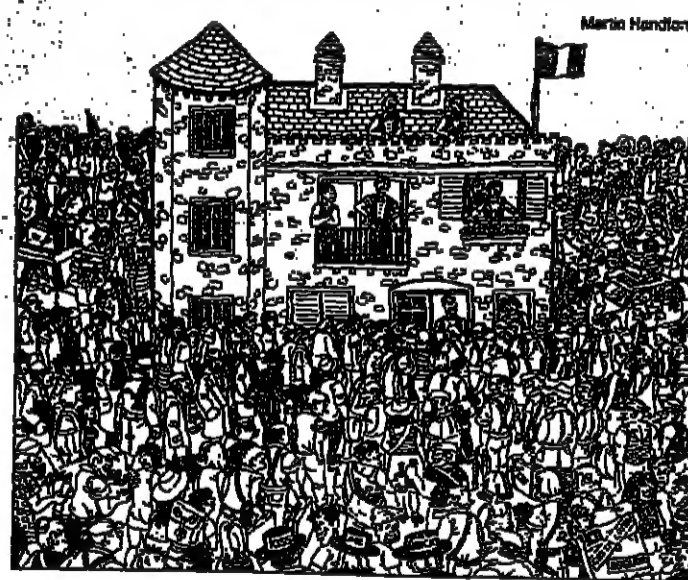
From the Rev Raymond Martin, Rector of the Redmarley Group of parishes, The Rectory, Redmarley D'Abot, Gloucester. The trouble with atheists such as Serena Sutcliffe (*The Times*, Friday, May 24) is that they presumably do not keep up to date with developments in Church liturgy.

I would agree with her that the introduction to the form of solemnization of matrimony in the 1662 Prayer Book leaves a lot to be desired. However, I believe that the introduction to the marriage service in the Alternative Service Book gives both a better emphasis to marriage and also employs much more acceptable language. I commend her to read it.

## Beware those guidebooks, warns Frank Barrett

## The lure of the small hotel

Martin Handford



welcoming, good food and cheap... Mme Lebarq is a friendly, most attractive hostess who does everything she can to ensure her customers' enjoyment... The auberge is old and beamy and the fast-flowing river Durdent divides the eating and drinking bit from the sleeping bit... You have to navigate a little bridge between the two - handrails provided for reasons that become obvious after experiencing one of Mme Lebarq's meals and a generous glass of calvados or two... A double room costs 70F. If she doubled that sum, I can think of no better bargain.

But in the most recent edition of the guide, the Auberge de la Durdent not only gets something of an all-round praise: "It is five years now since I first wrote about the auberge and its charming, recently-widowed patronne, Madame Lebarq..."

"But the word spread, other guidebooks caught on, a tour operator moved in... Nowadays the letters are roughly three to one against. Mostly they are written more in sorrow than in anger... I don't think I shall go back until I hear that matters have improved."

If Patricia Fenn is looking for an explanation behind the deterioration of standards and service at the hotel, she need look no further than her own first euphoric write-up. That's the view of Mike Bruce-Mitford who was sending VFB clients to the Auberge de la Durdent before its inclusion in Patricia Fenn's book - and saw it suddenly swamped under the tidal wave of British visitors clutching *French Entrée*.

"It's about time that Patricia Fenn and the others accepted responsibility for the effect that this degree of over-exposure has. It's almost impossible for a small hotel of this sort, run by one lady single-handed, to cope

with the pressure of business brought about by such a glowing write-up. Authors should bear this in mind."

The problem is clear. You find a quiet, attractive, uncrowded hotel - you praise it to the skies, and then it's no longer quiet and uncrowded. Patricia Fenn admits that it's an "interesting point" but argues that other hotels upon which she has heaped praise have coped with success rather better than the Auberge de la Durdent.

While Patricia Fenn may plead not guilty to destroying the charm and character of small French hotels, she is quite happy to see Arthur Eperon brought into the dock on the same charge. She claims that the Eperon style of focusing on a few hotels in an enormous area - just three in the whole of Brittany, for example - does have the effect of swamping these hotels with British visitors. "People know, don't they, that nearly all the hotels in the Eperon books are likely to be full of English people - you need to use a certain common sense."

So if you're planning a motoring trip round France this summer what books should you buy? The best solution would seem to be to take the pop guides like the Fenn book and the Eperon books. That way at least you'll know how to avoid the British colonies. To find the quiet, unspoiled hotels (and there are still a few left) you'll need the Red Michelin and take particular note of the maps which show the pleasant, secluded, quiet hotels. These are signified by a pictogram of the Michelin Man relaxing in a rocking chair. You should also take along the yellow *Auberges de France* guide and the *Relais et Chateaux* guide - both available from the French tourist office in Piccadilly, London W1.

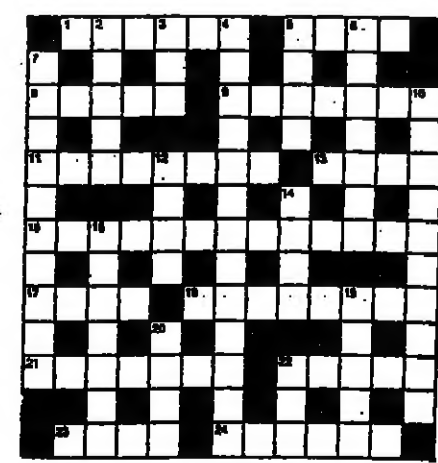
## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 661)

- ACROSS  
1 Doze (6)  
5 Baffle (4)  
8 Speak publicly (5)  
9 In progress (7)  
11 Be back-of (8)  
13 Level (6)  
15 Trappings (13)  
17 Confine (4)  
18 Rail sleeping car (5,3)  
21 Japanese warrior (7)

- DOWN  
2 Present (5)  
3 Born (3)  
4 Rapid growth (13)  
5 Old-fashioned person (4)  
6 At beginning (7)  
7 Trickery (5,3)  
10 Huge (10)

- SOLUTION TO No 660  
ACROSS: 1 Cupid 4 Pyjamas 8 Ream 9 Assault 10 Ruminant 11 Blur 13 Hare Krishna 17 Alto 18 Upheaval 21 Run-down 22 Bogus 23 Staunch 24 Every

- DOWN: 1 Curare 2 Psalm 3 Dominator 4 Plasterer punch 5 Jest 6 Maudlin 7 Suture 12 Assemble 14 Antenna 15 Walrus 16 Classy 19 Vague 20 Goon



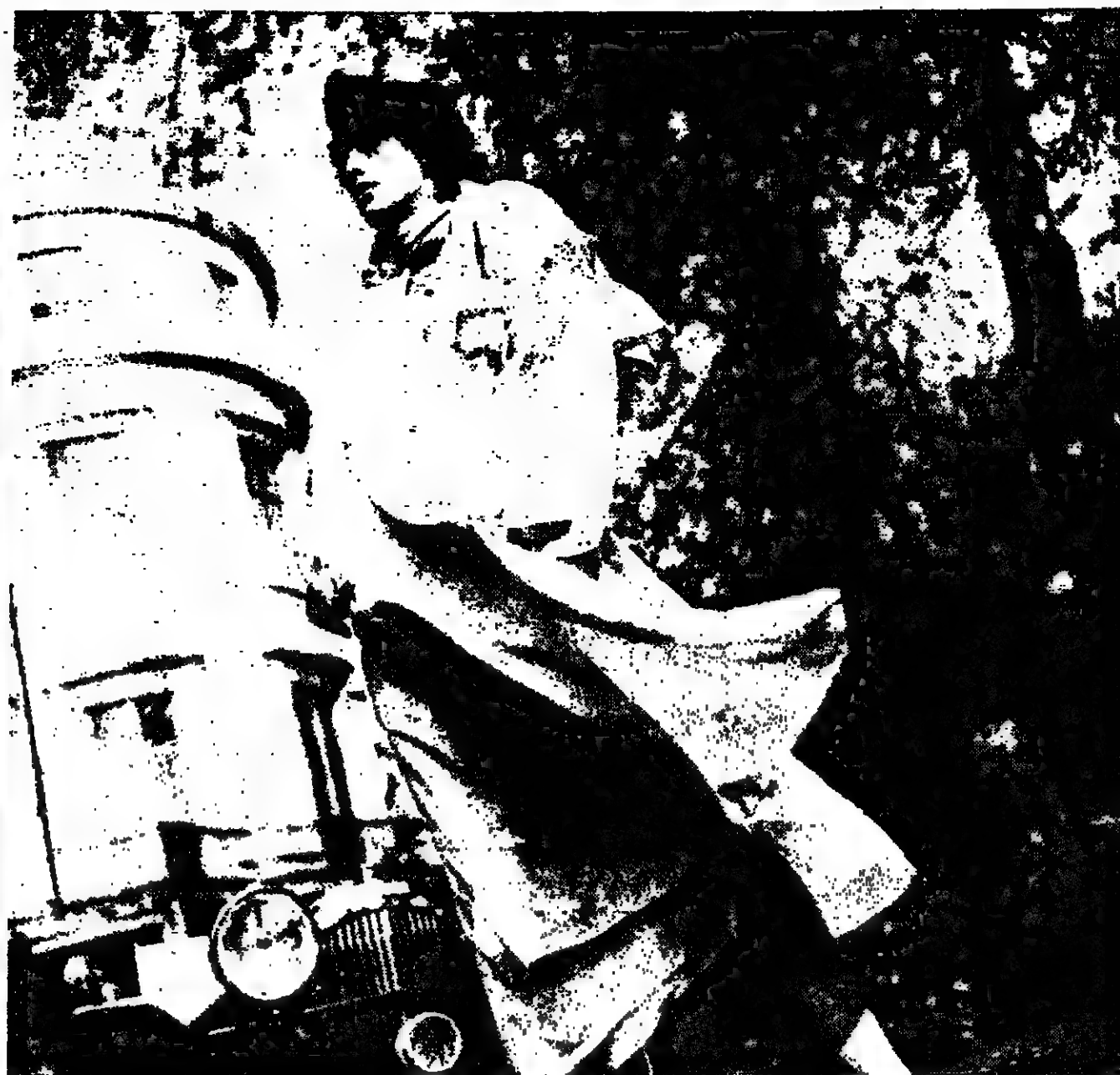
- 12 Mature (4)  
14 Unwrap (4)  
16 Therapy course (7)  
19 Boxes player (3)  
20 Squirrels' nest (4)  
22 Check over (3)



## FASHION by Suzy Menkes



Above: Betty-Jackson's over-size silk seersucker duster in palest peach with blue £245, over Katharine Hamnett's pastel back apricot cotton poplin skirt £82, matching smock shirt £62, all from Joseph, 6 Sloane Street, SW1  
Luggage antique and modern from Louis Vuitton, 149 New Bond Street, W1



Above right: Shell pink silk duster coat £80, rippling pastel blue silk tent dress £80, both by Barbara de Vries from Joanna's Tent, Kings Road, SW3; The Vestry, South Molton Street, W1; Ragos, Twickenham; Sharie, Ashford, Kent; Cruise, Glasgow. Blue chiffon scarf from Kenzo, 17 Sloane Street, SW3

## TRAVELLING LIGHT



Gossamer-line orange silk trench by K.W. in a selection of brightly coloured silks, £80 from Focus, 295 Kings Road, SW3; Mango of Windsor, Rider Walker, 110 Long Acre, WC2 and The Other Cheek, Canterbury, Damask pattern cotton leggings by Michiko Koshino £91 from 7 Dering Street, W1; Shoes, Hobbs



Pale brown linen collarless coat £230, plain damask dress £169, orange chiffon scarf in brilliant colours, all from Kenzo, 17 Sloane Street, SW3

Photographs by Richard Irvine



Featherlight nylon duster coat in apricot, ice blue, mint green, white and red, by Tramway £89, ribbed cotton polo neck dress £55, both from Focus, 295 Kings Road, SW3; Mango of Windsor, Exception, Glasgow and Edinburgh

Hair and Make-up by Tracie Marilyn for Trevor Sorbie. Lagonda M 45, 1984 supplied by Perschke Garage, London SW5

Dressing for travel is a thing of the past - but what history it has made. The Brief Encounters of stage and screen - Bogart on the tarmac in *Casablanca* and ocean liners full of weepy farewells - are matched by fashions on the move.

The long journey from coach and horses to Concorde has produced beacons of style. The carriage cloak with its shoulder cape to catch the drips was the forerunner of the modern mackintosh. The Grand Tour brought us the Burberry; all those sensible blanket checked coats were designed round smutty stations. The entire art deco decade seemed to be anchored on boater double-breasted, brass-buttoned blazers, easy flannel trousers for both sexes, jaunty panamas, regatta stripes and Chanel's Deauville jerseys.

Air travel brought in the fur-coloured leather jacket, which has had a fashion life that spans the wings of the first bi-planes and the latest jets. The flying suit, like so many of the travel clothes, was an early example of men and women dressing alike, which has developed into the androgynous fashions of the 1980s.

Then there are the joys of the open road. I do not share Mr Toad's view of the delight of the noisy, bone-shaking, oil-spilling early motors. But the clothes from that period are as fine a vintage as the cars: impossibly wide-brimmed hats held under the chin with a wisp of lace; silk mufflers flying in the face of safety to strangle poor leaders; gross leather gaudlets with furry backs; and over those elegant Edwardian travelling costumes, the billowing duster coat.

As the image of the intrepid early

travellers in their pioneer sports clothes freezes into period posters, their dress has an increasingly nostalgic appeal - not least for designers who create high fashion.

This summer, the all-enveloping duster coat is back on the road, not for motoring, but for summer in the city. This is the most luxurious of dust covers, made up in pure silk, unlined, light as a breeze and in Watteau colours: palest aqua, shell pink, eau de nil, with the occasional flash of burnished orange or flame red and a great deal of white.

The shapes are loose but not languid, and the coats make a street-wise summer cover-up - more malleable and more avant-garde than the lightweight jacket and cool enough to keep on through sun and shade.

The duster coat is matched by the big dress cut on the same loose lines,

like a tent of parachute silk rippling across the body. The alternative garments to wear underneath are tightly fitted dresses and skirts - the clingy stretch cotton tubes of slim long skirts and dresses that make an interesting counterpoint to billowing silk and loose cottons.

Much of today's fashion seems to be a conflict of directions, so that clothes are either generously cut or very fitted; heels are either extremely high or totally flat; and prices are either at high street level or very costly.

The duster coats seem to span these extremes in that they are now being produced in all kinds of fabrics, styles and prices. I think the silks and the simplest lines have the most appeal, but you will find also pale shrouds of linen, trench or wrap coats to belt at

the waist, big dresses to sash at the hips, cotton printed and plain like a vast shirt, and even heavier-weight coats in cotton jerseys and viscose.

The odd thing is that the duster coat revival seems to be a street-led movement, backed by avant-garde designers, and the clothes are available mainly in off-beat shops. Yet this seems to be a fashion style which would work for all ages and especially all sizes, worn over the more conventional summer silks as well as the high fashion leggings and stirrup pants.

The coats express themselves in movement and fly like a flag in the wind. And if you define travelling clothes as those which arrive at their destination less distressed than you are, a big, cool, comfortable tent seems just the thing to wear.

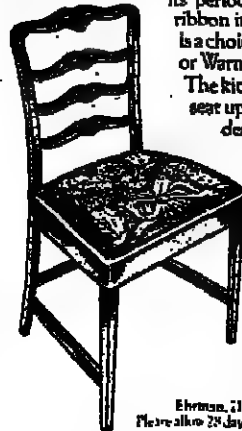
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
THE VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM  
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The Victoria and Albert Museum has one of the finest collections of needlework and embroidery in the country and this beautiful chairseat cover is adapted from an 18th century chair in the museum. The design is typical of its period with flowers, acanthus leaves and flowing ribbon in muted blue-greens, claret and pinks. There is a choice of background colour: Parchment (as above) or Warm Brown (left).

The kit contains enough background wool for a chairseat up to 18" x 18", but the canvas is 23" square. The design is worked in half-cross stitch on a single thread canvas with 12 holes to the inch, so it is easy on the eyes. It is printed in the full eight colours: pale pink, apple green, coral, biscuit, deep cornic green, pale blue, claret and strawberry. All the yarns are from the Appleton range. The kit comes complete with needle, instructions and your choice of background wool.

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Please send me.....chairseat kits at £19.95 each

My choice of colour is: Parchment ☐ Brown ☐

I enclose cheque/PO made out to Ehrman for £.....(Total)

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## These uniform flights of fancy

## FASHION EDITOR'S COMMENT

"I wanted a look of authority without the military overtones", said Roland Klein last week, as he launched his new designs for British Airways staff.

The concept of a uniform is today almost a dirty word - especially so for those who work in the so-called "dirty" jobs that actually require a cover-up.

Waitresses, canteen staff, hospital porters and caretakers prefer the bright new euphemisms "workwear" or "career clothing". Their "uniforms" are now checked and striped and made in relentlessly jolly colours - orange, turquoise, sunshine yellow - to remove any hint of services navy or institution grime.

For women's jobs, a uniform is almost a misfortune. A modern-day *Bateman* cartoon might depict "The Nanny who turned up in Uniform at the School Gates", trying to hide the embarrassment of her hirsute brown Norland dress from the thoroughly modern nannies in their designer jeans.

The uniform as a signal of professional skill - a bright beam of confidence from wearer to consumer - has long since been outlawed.

Railway staff, bus conductors, postmen, have all followed schoolchildren in seeing how far they can go in turning a tailored uniform into casual wear. First goes the cap, then the top shirt button; next the sweat shirt underneath. The final triumph over authority is when the uniform trousers are swapped for jeans. No matter that denim started its life as French workwear, or that it has now become a uniform of youth.

Many of the remaining vestiges of authority clothing - and most especially my son's extremely expensive and all-too-destructible school blazers - are a nonsense and a nuisance.

Uniforms seem to dawdle behind social change, catching up with current styles and fabrics just as fashion is moving on. Sometimes uniforms are stranded altogether, like the Beefeaters' Shakespearean frocks, or the ceremonial court breeches, beached in the 18th century, which cause perennial embarrassment to incoming ambassadors.

The police, the services and the airports are the last bastions

of modern uniform - authority clothing with sharp creases in trousers and sleeves and none at all round the knees.

British Airways rightly assumes that the chap who shines his buttons knows which ones to push.

Roland Klein's uniforms for the male cabin staff are a complete success, because he has managed to relax the strict lines while keeping to tailoring. A double-breasted blazer, a trench and pleat front trousers suggest classics of British style.

The women's uniforms are good in parts: a splendid wrap coat and a neat blazer over an indeterminate overshirt and a very stern skirt.

Defining an air hostess in terms of clothing is a difficult task when her image is already so uncertain. The publicity department sees her as a siren of the skies, luring tired businessmen on to the Scotch on the rocks.

Part sick-nurse, part waitress, a computer operator for passenger lists and a maid-of-

all-work in the aisles - could any outfit be designed to suit all her roles and needs?

Uniforms also carry an image of sexual pulling power. This is nothing new, and not wholly to do with women. From Lydia in *Pride and Prejudice* to Christopher Robin's Alice marrying her Guard, men have traditionally appealed to women because of the cut of their military cloth.

An earnest Freudian psychologist once explained to me that the Englishman's view of a woman in uniform was conditioned by the nanny and the public school matron. And while the regimes may have ended, the nostalgia for starched aprons lingers on.

The British Airways stewardesses do not wear starched aprons, only a practical navy tablier for serving meals. I would like to tell Roland Klein, after his year-long work, staff research and effort, that the flying public up there really cares about the clothes.

But I fear that, even in our feminist age, the only interest the predominantly male air passengers take in women's uniforms, comes at the moment of take-off.

CHOICE  
entertainment  
music  
entertainment  
dramatic films  
news  
children's channels  
and more

## missions

Moskva culture runs on a different to the rest of the world. It runs on the same 111GHz band and four unscrambled services: TEN, Five, More channels, the American news, and on the way may be scrambled. International's 50 prevent reception by users.

The European Commission, has fine channels: a Swiss network, a British pop music channel, Italian entertainment and a Belgian cultural

are expected to invest in technology and not the

satellite system collect subscription to 23 a month for such as TEN and their channels carrying anyone who to write to their for permission in the legal anyone who refuse subscription is in breach of the task of tracking could prove

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Martin Handley

Barrett Hotel

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Just contrary

London, I can reveal, is to be twinned. Not with Washington, Paris or Moscow, but with Managua, the run-down capital of strife-torn Nicaragua. The decision was taken during a closed session of the G.L.C. Labour group late last month, while Ken Livingstone yesterday described it to me as "a gesture of support" for the Sandinistas in their struggle against the Reagan administration. Kenneth Baker, the local government minister charged with G.L.C. abolition, was incredulous. "The only thing Managua and London have in common is upwardly mobile Marxist politicians," he remarked, before contacting our man in Managua to find out if it has a directly elected municipal authority (it doesn't). How much Londoners will pay for this privilege, whether they will be expected to undertake cultural exchanges with Managuans, and whether the twinning will devolve on to all 32 London boroughs in 10 months' time, no one at County Hall can say. "It's all being worked out at the moment," a spokesman told me. "There will be no junkies or freebies. It's only for the economic good of Londoners and Managuans."

## Quid pro quo

Even David Owen's office admitted it was surprised. A speculative request from the SDP leader - in America to address Minnesota industrialists today - came up trumps and late yesterday he was received at the White House by President Reagan. A sign that Reagan regards Owen as the next prime minister? More of a favour returned, I think. In the late 1970s when Owen was Foreign Secretary he agreed to meet the then governor of California - and aspiring presidential contender. One Ronald Reagan.

## Outsiders

Top Tories have shown a remarkable reluctance to take part in tonight's Cambridge Union debate. Not one cabinet minister - Tom King, Norman Tebbit, Patrick Jenkin, Sir Keith Joseph, Norman Fowler or John Biffen - would agree to speak. This could be because even by opposing a motion suggesting that the Alliance is the "natural party of government" they would be acknowledging its existence. More likely it is because they were to have been joined in opposing the motion by Labour's Eric Heffer. Heffer likewise seems to have found the prospect of siding with the Tories too awful. He too has now cried off, pleading a constituency engagement. Talking on Shirley Williams and Bill Rodgers will be Tony David Mellor and Austin Mitchell for Labour.

BARRY FANTONI



## Troubles

Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli foreign minister, can expect some sticky moments during his visit to Britain this week. Up to 30 rabbis plan to boycott his address to Jewish leaders at a London hotel tomorrow in protest at his recent Knesset vote to exclude all converts brought to Judaism by Reform or Liberal rabbis. Nor, I imagine, will British ministers be thrilled by his views on Ireland as delivered to a group of Irish newsmen in Jerusalem last month. Shamir reportedly claimed that during his days as leader of the underground Stern gang before Israel was established, he chose the alias Michael - "in the name of the famous Irish freedom fighter Michael Collins, whose exploits captivated me".

## Wife and comrade

The Dudley East party of former Labour defence minister John Gilbert who is fighting deselection, has been experiencing a mysterious membership boom that has seen the seven-strong trade union delegation to the general management committee swell to more than 40 in just 12 months. The new delegates include Gilbert's wife Jean, a London-based interior designer, a deputy headmistress representing the General and Municipal union's catering branch, one Margaret Hyde who told the *Dudley News*: "I know I'm a delegate but I don't know from which union"; and sundry others who have been put down for unions of which they have never been members. Dr Gilbert's Office refuses to comment. Party members are demanding an inquiry.

PHS

# Give Fowler the benefit

by Sarah Hogg

Norman Fowler deserves at least an E for effort. An overhaul of social security carried out with the aid of four separate committees, but without the full engagement of tax-makers in the Treasury, appeared a recipe for self-contradiction rather than coherence. This was never a "new Beveridge" in ambit or ambition. But the results are surprisingly well directed along a central line of reform.

In the 35 years after the launch of the Beveridge system (comparing 1944 with 1949), the cost of social security rose fivefold in real terms. Out of this expanded total, the proportion devoted to means-tested benefits doubled, to 25 per cent. Despite this growth in complexity, today's system is still not well targeted on the poor. The overlap of benefits and taxation creates disincentives to work or earn more - the famous "unemployment trap" and the "poverty trap" - by withdrawing state support particularly sharply at certain points on the income scale.

The confusion is compounded by ancient divisions of the 30-odd main benefits, some of which grew up out of national insurance, some of which are financed out of ordinary income tax. Some are themselves subject to income tax; others are tax-free. Some are means-tested; some flat-rate; one, perhaps the most important of all, is earnings related.

Since poverty and need are complex and changing conditions, some complexity is inevitable; but over time, any welfare system needs shaking out before the combination of cost and complication swamps taxpayers and recipients alike. But Fowler has done more than spring-

clean. First, he has attempted to bring into line three separate structures: supplementary benefits for the old, sick and out-of-work; the supplements to the income of working people with families; and the other main means-tested benefit, related to housing costs.

Although his review stops short of complete fusion, this alignment is a great improvement. But the whole report displays a maidenly reticence about money; and the first guesses by the Institute of Fiscal Studies suggest that this simplification would not come cheap.

Even so, there are some immediate pluses to be scored against this section of the report. The new, two-tier system of child support, with flat-rate tax-free benefit topped up with an income-related credit, will direct cash more effectively to poor families. The integration of this credit with tax, so that it is delivered through pay packets, should improve take-up and disperse the old resistance to means-tests by transforming them into the normal business of tax assessment.

The transformation of free school meals into hard cash, paid in the same way, ends the disincentive effects of the sudden withdrawal of large "benefits in kind" at fixed points on the income scale. Shifting the timing of annual benefit upratings to the spring moves towards the necessary integration of tax and welfare payments. Relating income-tested benefits to take-home pay rather than gross earnings is a step in the same direction.

The unemployed will be able to earn more without losing benefit; another welcome improvement in incentives. Fowler is trying to inject incentives of a different kind in the reduction of payments for housing and rates, an issue entangled by the government's struggles with local authorities, so that his proposals may be overtaken by events between now and 1987, his target date for reform. The emphasis on computerized efficiency is the proper foundation for a system designed for the 21st century.

Yet there are two aspects of the system on which Fowler's long sight has failed to focus properly. On pensions, the government cannot, to be fair, be accused of taking a short-term view; it has decided to abolish the state earnings-related pension scheme because of worries about its cost several decades ahead. The political difficulties, however (not least Mrs Thatcher's own commitments), have meant that the terms on which it proposes to phase out Serps are absurdly generous, especially to those in their forties; while the government's fears of increasing employers' costs now make the proposed system of compulsory private pension provision look mean. It would have been more immediately effective to weed out the extravagant features of Serps, and let it tick on.

But the abolition of state earnings-related pensions is at least consistent with Fowler's central aim of redirecting state spending towards the lower income groups. Where his

review quite fails to follow through this logic is in its timorous adherence to separate national insurance contributions.

National insurance was conceived of by Beveridge as a property contributory system, with flat-rate benefits directly related to the payment of flat-rate contributions. But his notion of state-managed social insurance has been completely eroded over the years. The Fowler review breaks a few more of the remaining strands linking what you pay and what you receive, both by phasing out Serps and by transforming certain flat-rate national insurance benefits paid at birth and death into income-tested grants.

Yet the government still clings to separate national insurance as the embodiment of what the Fowler review calls a "social compact" between those who pay for, and those who receive, state benefits. Since half of all social security consists of benefits now financed straight out of income tax, this is an obvious nonsense; few voters could say which benefits were paid for out of which state pocket - or why. The real reason the government is clinging to a separate national insurance is that fusion of contributions with income tax would destroy the illusion of moderate taxation by raising the basic rate. But it is a short-sighted decision, and one which should not have been taken ahead of the government's own green paper on personal taxation, due later in the year. For that matter, the government should never have reviewed social security in isolation from taxation.

The author is Economics Editor of *The Times*.

Digby Anderson

# Hoping things get even worse

Let me send a shiver up your spine. Well, I don't honestly expect or intend that many, a few or even one reader will actually shiver metaphorically, let alone physically. I say "Let me send a shiver up your spine" in the same way as those intense people lean back in their chairs, looking grim, then suddenly lurch forward, staring, and say "I really am extremely worried about the dollar" or "the Peacock Inquiry".

It's ten to one they've been sleeping like babes. But it does enable you, should you wish, to continue the round and say "I read something today in *The Times* which sent a shiver up my spine" when it didn't. We must keep up appearances. More to the point, this sort of introduction is mandatory when one is introducing a "scenario". It's not a very ambitious scenario, as scenarios go, no detailed prophecies; merely a juxtaposition of two current trends to make a "chilling point", but all columnists have to have a scenario sooner or later. Here we go.

The first trend is that representatives of very different political views increasingly agree that all is far from well in state education, social security, government housing intervention, social services and the NHS. Many socialists - those free to speak without obligation to the public sector trade unions which have a vested interest in perpetuating these services - unchanged, no longer defend the welfare state, that is this welfare state. They want another one, a better one, perhaps a bigger one, but the old attitude that this one will run for ever with the public expenditure equivalent of thicker sump oil is dying if not dead. Reform, on occasions suitably disguised, is now on everyone's agenda.

Trend No 2 is that the Thatcher government's attempts at reform have foundered on a series of obstacles: the politicians have not tried very hard, being more interested in winning national and local elections than deep and (temporarily) unpopular reforms. Besides, reform involves statutory work - not just telling local authorities to spend less - and statutory work requires parliamentary time and detailed drafting. One reason given by Sir Keith Joseph for not pursuing the contribution that vouchers would make to greater parental choice of schools and higher educational standards was that it would mean altering the 1944 Education Act. Of course it would, and about time too after 41 years.

Civil servants are not sympathetic to change, in a Thatcherite, Bennite, or any radical direction. One recommendation on which politically diverse social policy analysts agree is that reform of social security should go hand in hand with reform of personal taxation so that one lot of civil servants is not employed duplicating the calculations of another then returning to taxpayers the money just extracted from them, often in similar amounts. That radical suggestion was ruled out by Norman Fowler and his civil servants from the outset of his inquiry. Tax is not involved in it.

Each attempt to change an individual part of the welfare system

arouses the fury of a vested interest, be it consumers benefiting from a "service", such as articulate middle-class parents eager to preserve student grants, or service producers also defending expensive privileges. The last year has seen dons, teachers and social security employees all taking on the taxpayer. The reforms are significant threats to the vested interests concerned but their benefits are spread wide and thin and produce no comparable lobby of support. Who would take to the streets in enthusiasm for a piffing tax cut? Local and national politicians are well aware of the electoral liability of reform and are, regardless of party, paternalistically inclined.

And when reforms are attempted, reform is not often their effect. It would be a rash person indeed who said that universities or social service departments are now more rationally or efficiently staffed as a result of attempted economies. Most have bled to minimize friction and inconvenience to existing, especially senior and expensive staff. In short, reform, though agreed by everybody to be in everybody's interest, is in no one's interest. Worse, the character of the obstacles to it suggests they are likely to frustrate the reforms of any government, regardless of political colour, so long as it is what governments usually are: disunited, half-hearted and preoccupied with the next election.

And so the shiver: at the very moment we agree that the welfare state must be reformed, it appears unreformable, literally out of control. Its vices capture by producer interests, unaccountability, vulnerability to the more articulate lobbying of the middle class, inability to meet rising expectations in health and education because of dependence on the limits of tax-derived funds, bureaucracy and rationing by diktat - will continue, perhaps become more pronounced. We are faced not with a rationally responsive organization but Byzantium.

However there is a chink of light at the end of the tunnel, or wherever scenarios end, a light as metaphorical and rhetorical as the shiver with which we did, or did not, start. There may come a point when a significant number of the better-off customers determine to escape from the deteriorating welfare state into the private sector. Some governments will try to stop them, but private education especially is difficult to police and technology will make it more so. A sensible government would help them, and the less well-off, to exit now with allowances for private education and health. If such services get working, exit they will. In the end reform will come though customers' discontent rather than government engineering. A further deterioration of public services is our best hope. So when you hear of year-long waiting lists for hospitals, peace studies in schools, local government subsidies to sexual pervers, free abortions on the taxpayer... Cheer up. As I said, it's only a scenario.

The author is Director of The Social Affairs Unit.

## Paul Vallely on a deal satisfying to everyone - except the victims



# Famine: Russia and US on collusion course

tactics in their long-standing policy of trying to woo Ethiopia back into the western sphere of influence. The casualties of the West's westward strategy are the two million Tigrayan peasants estimated to be at risk of starvation and who for the past six months have been denied access to the massive amounts of international aid entering the country. The only response for many of them has been to make the long trek to Sudan in a desperate search for food.

Recent disclosure in Washington of a confidential White House report dated May 5 last year shows that the US government recognized then that a "disaster situation" existed in Ethiopia but that aid was deliberately withheld for political reasons. Only five months later did the National Security Council agree that the time was opportune for aid to begin. Satellite pictures showed that tens of thousands were on the move and that the people were more vulnerable because Colonel Mengistu had temporarily halted the entry of aid during the celebrations for the 10th anniversary of the revolution.

The West's approach to the Mengistu government had always involved the stick as well as the carrot. Three days after the anniversary celebrations the US government called together the major American charities in Washington and signalled its intention to begin an illegal cross-border operation from Sudan into Tigré and Eritrea.

Its political purpose - to provide aid to the rebel armies inside Ethiopia and create another lever on Colonel Mengistu - was clear but two charities, Lutheran World Relief and Mercy Corps, were happy to take the US government money on offer and begin the operation.

From a humanitarian point of view too the move was sound: agency estimates from Addis Ababa indicated that only 22 per cent of the famine victims were being reached by Ethiopian government distribution systems and anywhere between 40 per cent and 80 per cent of all those at risk lived in guerrilla controlled areas. A plan was approved which led to the spending of \$3.25 million on the internal purchase of grain by US aid workers within Ethiopia, buying from areas with a food surplus and redistributing it within the devastated areas of Tigré.

But it was essentially a pilot project which met only about 4 per cent of the total needs of the Ethiopian highlanders. They began to pour in their hundreds of thousands into Sudan, a potentially destabilizing influence in the country which was America's staunchest ally in the region. When Vice-President George Bush visited Sudan in March one of the major topics of conversation with the Nimeiry regime and local USaid officials was stepping up the cross-border programme.

Three separate plans were discussed. The first was to beef up the existing voluntary agencies with 800,000 tons of grain and 500 lorries. The second, which was budgeted at hundreds of millions of dollars, was a programme of "deep penetration" which involved building a highway from Sudan to the heart of Tigré: this was tantamount to a challenge to the Dergue to bomb it; "the Sudanese were even more gun-gung on this one than we were," according to one senior US official.

The third involved a more modest provision of 240 new lorries for the existing cross-border arrangements; USaid even asked one large charity, Care, if it would be prepared to pull out of Ethiopia to mastermind the scheme, but the agency declined.

The Mengistu regime responded by calling in the British ambassador and the Australian chargé d'affaires and telling them that if the operation went ahead Ethiopia would break off diplomatic relations with the US and, by implication, expel all its aid workers.

At the subsequent Geneva international conference on the problems of Africa, after the usual exchange of rhetoric between George Bush and the Ethiopian foreign minister, the two countries got together behind the scenes and agreed on the broad outlines of the pacification programme which was later secretly signed in Addis Ababa.

Already CRS has begun food distribution in the new centres at Areza and Maychew but the prospects for the new scheme are already in some doubt after TPLF claims that it has beaten the Ethiopian army back to its old garrison towns, forcing it to abandon almost all the territory it had gained in western Tigré.

The US response has been to give approval to CRS and World Vision to set up operations in Sudan with a view to reviving the threat of a cross-border operation in September, after the rainy season, if Colonel Mengistu does not seem to be moving in the right direction.

Many observers in Sudan now doubt that there was ever any real American intention to send food in large quantities across the border. In the end, for Washington, a Yugoslav-style socialism in Ethiopia would be far preferable to the unknown quantity of a new regime heavily dominated by strong victorious rebel groups.

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moreover... Miles Kington

# Runcible spoons on the way

Before I release the results of our Edward Lear look-alike contest, may I thank all those hundreds of *Times* readers who, by responding so readily with limeticks, have given me premature eye-strain. I think it proves what the crossword and letters page already suggest, that the main obsession which ties *Times* readers together is a love of words. No misuse of a word in *The Times* ever goes unpunished by readers, who are angered by brutality towards the English language as others are by ill treatment of dogs, babies and minorities.

By the same token, no invitation to submit clever entries goes ignored, and I shall not make the same interesting mistake again. So, if this column in the future ever seems to contain an invitation to compose small literary gems, it is merely an illusion. Ignore it. And now the winners, in no particular order.

David Hockney exclaimed as he lay by his pool in the heat of the day "Here I am on the brink With Elizabeth Frink When I'd far rather Roger de Grey". (Basil Garsiana)

There was a young artist of Drumstable Who once forged a painting by Constable. His fraud was detected Before he expected As the paints he was using were unstable. (Alastair MacLaren)

A museum in bankrupt condition Felt no need for, nor sense of contribution; Its committee in meeting Co-opted Tom Keating And commissioned five Stubbs and a Titian. (Roy Boulting and Mary Harvey)

Although in the fire may the fat be I seldom admire Mr Brathby. Something leaps from the frame; I reel back and exclaim, "Gordon Bennett! Whoever can that be?" (Mr/Mrs Charlton)

I can call it no more than a lurch, But I'll hazard a guess: Edward Munch. Though really quite able Was more than unstable A lurch you know "out to lunch". (Julian Johnston)

What sort of man was Man Ray? I know Dada is very risqué But sticking rice peaches In sky-painted niches Isn't batch. It's quiche-eating fey. (John Nialand)

There was a young lady of Yewdale, Who inspected the paintings of Fusell. The subsequent night Was all nesses and fright, And she woke up refusing (Basil Cottle)

Young Mills said, "How I hope That with time I'll be able to cope." But the start of his trouble to cope. Was his painting of "Bubbles" And now he's remembered for soap. (Joan Rough)

"Por Dios!" cried Francisco de Goya. "What I need most of all is a lawyer! My majra desmuda Is considerably ruler And her husband said 'Goya, I saw yer!' (Derek Cummings)

Said a critic called Ruskin, "By gum Whistler's art is exceedingly rum." He's thrown paint in the face Of the whole human race - Now he's gone off and painted his Mum. (Anon)

A fine Quattrocento predella Was sold as a picture by Kneller; An institute bought it But I would have thought it Was painted by some other fellow. (David Edes)

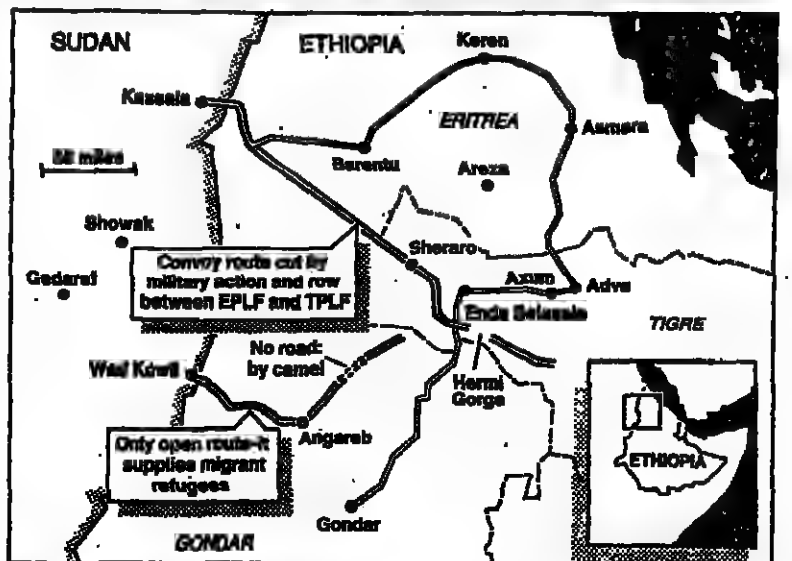
The distinguished R.A., William Eky, Sold flesh by the yard like spaghetti. He said "Don't think me rude, But I'm strictly pro-meat, And anti-G-bloody-Rossetti". (Charles Sinker)

To further his art, the young Giotto Once painted some nuns in a grotto. When they said, "You're a saint!" He replied: "No, I ain't. I do my best work when I'm blotto". (Derek Cummings)

Great Augustus John A.R.A. Painted quite well in his way So why is it, then, That his poor sister Gwen Is thought to be better today? (Mary & Philip Mottram)

Prizes of honey, five pound notes, runcible spoons, etc, to all concerned, even to Anon if he contacts me from Upper Eastern Green Lane, Coventry.

## AID AND REBELLION



## ETHIOPIA

POPULATION around 42 million  
FAMINE VICTIMS around 8 million  
OFFICIAL AGENCY RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission), a department of Ethiopian government  
VOLUNTARY AGENCIES CRS (Catholic Relief Services), US; World Vision, US; Care, US; Save The Children, UK; Oxfam, UK; Concern, Eire  
AID (latest known figures) Soviet Union \$2 billion, exclusively military aid; United States \$210 million, emergency food aid; World Bank \$150 million p.a. (\$400 million by 1989) EEC \$320 million (over five years)

## REBEL-HELD AREAS

Tigré, Eritrea and parts of Wollo  
Population around 9 million

Famine Victims estimated between 3.5 and 6 million  
REBEL FORCES TPLF (Tigre Peoples' Liberation Front); EPLF (Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front)  
EPDM (Ethiopian Peoples' Democratic Movement)

OFFICIAL AGENCIES RRC (Relief and Rehabilitation Commission) linked to TPLF  
ERA (Eritrean Relief Association) linked to EPLF  
ERO (Ethiopian Relief Organization) linked to EPDM

VOLUNTARY AGENCIES Mercy Corps, US; Lutheran World Relief, US; Oxfam, UK; Carof (British Catholic Church), UK; War On Want, UK; Norwegian Church Aid

AID United States \$6 million (total to date) EEC \$1.6 million





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## TARGETING WELFARE

For too long the welfare state has operated under a false premise, that it is an efficient system for redistributing wealth from rich to poor in the community. The poor have been paying for it and those who really need it have not received what they should. Moreover, the poor and the average have paid for the rich to receive all kinds of welfare, which should not be their due. The average wage earner has supported the welfare state by paying direct and indirect taxes to finance state pensions, subsidizing housing for one in three households and unemployment payments, which discourage people from working. The case for such a system, politically, has for too long been taken for granted by the political establishment. Politicians have a natural reluctance to dispel illusions particularly if it is to do so carries a short-term cost and attracts criticism. They are also aware of the ease with which a system of state provision for all, from cradle to the grave, can become self-perpetuating, and even an ominous force, extending the policy and giving each citizen the impression that she or he has no need and no power to take any major individual decisions.

Mr Fowler's welfare review, published yesterday, comes late in the day after six years of Conservative Government pledged to roll back the frontiers of the state. But at least we now know that the Government is still so pledged. The core principle of all that Mr Fowler publishes springs from that need and is, as it happens, supported by the commissioned public opinion survey which shows that the majority of people agree with this critique of the welfare state: it is spread too wide, targeted badly, incoherent to the recipient

and administrator and in need of change.

As Hayek once observed: "The most important change which extensive government control produces is a psychological change, an alteration in the character of the people. This is necessarily a slow affair, a process which extends not over a few years but perhaps over one or two generations. The important point is that the political ideals of the people and its attitude towards authority are as much the effect as the cause of the political institutions under which it lives".

The last war created a political atmosphere in which it became the view that the state would provide, though Beveridge, that much misrepresented man, emphatically espoused the principle that state provision should remain only basic and should be based firmly on the individual's contribution to it rather than on any theory of the automatic handout. Progressively the state expanded to a point where the idea of the nanny state became only too readily acceptable to the political establishment, though less it appears now to general opinion in the western democracies. It is not a long walk from the nursery to the prison, and the examples presented by planned economies in the east emphatically do not substantiate the socialist claim to greater efficiency in extending welfare.

So one detail of the Fowler review which deserves immediate welcome is that adjustment to housing benefit which will involve every potential ratepayer in any rise in the rates. It will not be much at the bottom end, rightly so, but at least enough to remind the householder that he or she is not totally insulated from the real

world which can no longer now provide everything free, including responsibility.

The Government will naturally be criticized widely for the details as well as for the principle that in abolishing the State Earnings Pension Scheme it is going back on the 1970s consensus which created it. Such a criticism elevates the fact of consensus above the merits or demerits of perpetuating into the next century a system of pensions which everybody knows will place intolerable demands on future generations and could not be supported by the British economy. Thinking long, and making the necessary administrative adjustments to alleviate the effect of long-term decisions is surely what we expect of ministers, rather than for them to indulge in the short-term pursuit of votes. Moreover, nobody this century will be affected by today's change.

Under the employment related benefits it will pay to take a job. Two different systems - income tax and benefit - will continue to operate rather than a unitary one, but the benefit system will be much clarified and targeted so that the productive wage-earner begins to stop receiving benefit from welfare with a smoother progression and without the sudden lurches backwards to the point where welfare earns more than a wage. That may be hard to put across politically because all three party groupings are competing for votes in the skilled and semi-skilled areas of income. But it is one more area in which we, the ordinary citizens, expect to see our political leaders representing the general good rather than bowing to sectional interest for party advantage.

## THE GREEKS' CLEAR CHOICE

Not many champagne corks will have popped in the chanceries of western Europe and North America at the news of Mr Andreas Papandreu's election victory. In his three and a half years as Greek prime minister, Mr Papandreu has hardly made himself the favourite colleague of other Western leaders. Indeed he has made it clear on many occasions that he himself is not by choice a Western leader at all. He would be more comfortable as leader of a non-aligned Greece, giving priority to ties with neighbouring Balkan and Arab countries. Before he came to power his party programme committed him to take Greece out of both Nato and the European Community, and it is circumstances rather than any strong emotional ties that have held him back from honouring that commitment.

That has not made him an easy ally or partner, and it is reasonable to suppose that many Western governments were secretly hoping for the victory of his conservative rival, Mr Constantinos Mitsotakis, while well aware that any public hint of such a preference would be likely to do him more harm than good. Too many Greeks hold the West responsible for sustaining a military dictatorship in power in Greece from 1967 to 1974, and for consolidating the Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus since then, for there to be any advantage to a Greek politician in being seen as the favourite of the West. Had Mr Mitsotakis won it would have been the consequence of some of Mr Papandreu's domestic policies, not of any problems he has caused in Nato or in the EEC.

Yet even if not the best result from the Western point of view, Mr Papandreu's outright victory is not the worst either. There will be widespread relief that the Greek voters have not,

as many predicted, elected a hung parliament in which Mr Papandreu could have maintained himself in power only with the support of the pro-Moscow Communists. Like Mitterrand in France four years ago, Mr Papandreu moved just close enough to the Communists to win over a crucial slice of their support in the country. That is much better than relying on the votes of their representatives in parliament.

The extraordinary gamble which Mr Papandreu took last March in withdrawing, at the last minute, his support for the re-election of President Karamanlis and staging a crisis over both the choice and the powers of the president of the republic, has, in the event, paid off handsomely, winning over more voters on the left than it antagonized in the centre. There was, undoubtedly, an element of duplicity about this manoeuvre, as there was an element of intimidation and high-handedness about the way the secrecy of the ballot was violated in order to ensure the election of M Papandreu's chosen presidential candidate.

It was easy for his opponents, in the highly charged atmosphere of that vote, to claim - and no doubt to believe - that Greek democracy was again in danger. Happily such fears have not been justified by the actual conduct of the election. It has been an affair of mass rallies and bitter mutual insults rather than genuine argument, but violence has been mercifully absent.

It is true that the government retained and to some extent misused its control of radio and television news, notably by suppressing any mention of Mr Karamanlis's eve-of-poll statement. Yet in this it only emulated the behaviour of its conservative predecessor (regrettable as that may be), and it is not plausible to say, as Mr

Mitsotakis has done, that the electorate was brainwashed into voting against its better judgement.

Mr Mitsotakis may to some extent have been the victim of his own success - especially that of his final rally in Athens, the size of which may have persuaded some potential Communist voters to switch to Mr Papandreu for fear of allowing the right to win. He also scored an own goal by trying to keep the issue of the presidency alive, when he pledged himself to force the resignation of the President if his party won - thereby offering the Greeks, who aspire to a quiet life, the prospect of a new constitutional crisis. M Raymond Barre, who wants the French opposition to take the same line with respect to President Mitterrand in next year's election, is advised to take note.

Meanwhile the world must settle down to another four years of Mr Papandreu as leader of Greece, this time uninhibited by any fear of presidential interference since the new parliament will presumably ratify the constitutional amendments passed by the last one. No doubt he will continue to keep us awake, but he no longer threatens to take Greece out of either EEC, or Nato. The former helped him win the election by raising the living standards of Greek farmers, and the latter remains Greece's essential insurance against any serious conflict with Turkey, although - in a sense because - Turkey is designated as an ally rather than an enemy. The Reagan administration, which wants to give more help to Turkey, will probably find it easier to convince Congress if Mr Papandreu continues to gratify his supporters with anti-American rhetoric. But perhaps, now he has been re-elected, he will no longer find it necessary to do that.

## THE NEARLY MAN

Lord George-Brown spent all his effective political life in the Labour Party, and at one moment seemed within inches of becoming its leader. After he had resigned from the Labour Cabinet in 1968 (as a result of a quarrel with the then Mr Harold Wilson) and had lost his House of Commons seat in the 1970 election, he became a peer, left the Labour Party over Mr Michael Foot's closed shop legislation and joined the Social Democrats as a founder member. There was logic in that. George Brown had been Hugh Gaitskell's supporter and deputy, and if they had had their way, a social democratic party, comparable to the German SPD, was what the Labour Party itself would have become. Labour is in a very different posture today, and already was when George Brown left it.

After Gaitskell's sudden death in 1963, Brown was a candidate for the Labour leadership and

seemed to be Gaitskell's natural heir. But he was defeated by Harold Wilson, who until then had been consistently associated with his party's left wing. It is tempting now to wonder whether, had Brown beaten Wilson, Labour might have taken a different course over the years since then. Had Brown instead of Wilson led it to victory in 1964, might Labour have resisted the steady drift to the left? Or, to pose a very different question, is it possible that the Labour Party might have been defeated in 1964, instead of beating Sir Alec Douglas-Home by four seats?

The probability is that neither outcome would have been different. There are some great historical events which have plainly hung on the accident of a particular person's position at a particular time, but this does not appear to be among them. The very fact that Labour, with its then moderate parliamentary

majority, chose not to elect George Brown was a sign not of a victory for the left but rather of misgivings among the moderates about whether George Brown, for all his great talents, would have served this purpose. His defeat for the leadership was the moderates' judgement of the problems his mercurial and impulsive temperament might create for their cause.

The more substantial question is whether, if George Brown had won, he would have kept Labour on more moderate courses, avoiding the policy fudging with which Harold Wilson so skilfully kept his party together. Given the inbuilt tensions of the party, and the failure of the "planned growth" and income policies with which both were equally associated that is unlikely. The truth is that Labour can only be managed by Wilsonian techniques, and that is the party's abiding problem.

## Britain bound by European Court

From Mr F. J. Silvester, MP for Manchester, Withington (Conservative)

Sir, The case of Mrs Balkandali and others at the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg (report, May 29) brings the Convention and its effects once more into public comment. This decision will please some sections of political opinion, just as others are pleased when they can use the closed shop or for fairer compensation following nationalisation. Public discussion is thus limited to the circumstances of the particular case. We fail to consider the most important issue: whether the court should have jurisdiction at all.

Earlier this year Parliament passed an Act relating to corporal punishment in schools. Everyone knows in their hearts that the Act is nonsense and the Secretary of State was only able to introduce it in tongue in cheek. He did so because a Norwegian judge, a Maltese judge, the Attorney General of Luxembourg, a Parisian barrister and professors of law from Iceland and Toronto told him to. Parliament was informed that it had no alternative but to acquiesce.

Now it is possible that the British people want this system, but as they have never been asked we cannot know. This whole apparatus is founded upon executive power without any democratic process. The Convention on which it is based was dealt with as a treaty and therefore required no statute and no parliamentary consultation.

The extension of the Convention to permit individual petitions from the UK was also an executive act and simply announced to Parliament in a written answer. The judges are appointed to the court on the nomination of the Government without any parliamentary involvement. The members of the Consultative Assembly itself are appointed by the Whips of the various parties and announced in another written answer.

There is now no doubting the magnitude of this constitutional change. The Government is bound by the treaty to make changes in laws ruled by the court to be contrary to the Convention. If Parliament remains sovereign then it can decide whether to change the law or not. But if it says no, then how is the Government pleased?

In these circumstances the fact that we retain the form of parliamentary law-making is a charade: the substance has transferred to Strasbourg.

So far, the Government has refused to let Parliament in on the discussion, preferring to keep it within the cosy circles of Whitehall. This could well be the last opportunity when a proper discussion can occur and a free and democratic decision be taken.

Yours faithfully,  
FRED SILVESTER,  
House of Commons.  
May 31.

## Tamil refugees

From Mr Alper Riza

Sir, It is perhaps surprising that on the day the United Kingdom has been found in breach of its obligations under the European Convention on Human Rights, it is about to breach another international convention. I am referring to the convention and protocol relating to the status of refugees and the effect it might have on the way the Home Secretary proposes to treat Tamil asylum seekers.

The Refugee Convention, unlike the European Convention, is part of United Kingdom domestic law in that it has been expressly incorporated in the Immigration rules currently in force. That should mean that every Tamil refused asylum on the merits of his case should be given a proper right of appeal or review against refusal (article 22).

Even if through some technical argument, this article is held not to apply, some kind of right of appeal is regarded as a basic requirement by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (the UNHCR) with whom the United Kingdom is under a duty to cooperate under article 35(1). Thus the problem which your letter article (May 29) was rightly concerned about ought not to arise although the Home Office has to date not acknowledged that there is such a right of appeal.

Moreover, if on refusing asylum to any Sri Lankan refugee it is proposed to send the refugee back to Sri Lanka, this could amount to "refoulement", which is expressly prohibited by article 33. The difficulty here is whether or not a person is in fact a refugee in the sense that he has a well-founded fear of persecution on grounds of racial origin, political opinion etc.

In this respect the Home Secretary does, it seems, need to be reminded that the mere fact that his officials decide that a particular applicant is not a refugee does not mean that he is not one for the purposes of complying with the United Kingdom's obligations under the Convention.

Yours etc,  
ALPER RIZA,  
3 Stone Buildings,  
Lincoln's Inn, WC2.  
May 29.

## Directory inquiry

From Mr John B. Harris

Sir, When can we hope that competition, about which we heard so much, will force British Telecom to provide directories in kiosks, in post offices and places where they were once so useful?

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN B. HARRIS  
31 Princes Road, W1.  
May 28.

## Experimentation on test-tube embryos

From Dr B. J. Boughton

Sir, Lady Warnock's article (May 30) does little to allay my misgivings concerning the report of her Committee of Enquiry into Human Fertilization and Embryology. In accusing the House of Commons of moral fantasy over its support for Enoch Powell's Unborn Children (Protection) Bill she appears more than ever an advocate for vested scientific interest and her arguments grow less persuasive.

She argues that since the embryo in the womb has no human rights, it is logical to permit limited experimentation on test-tube embryos. She cites potential improvements in our understanding of infertility and genetic diseases, yet never has it been shown convincingly that answers to these questions require human rather than animal embryos.

One wonders how she would respond in five years' time to the scientist who wishes to experiment on older, more developed human embryos. These, too, have no legal rights, and the results of such experiments would be of interest to science and could arguably bring benefit to others. In this light, her charge of moral simplicity against Mr Powell's supporters is unjust.

Lady Warnock has herself permitted a superficial complication of the moral argument, and the support her committee has given to scientific lobbies is itself simplistic and shortsighted.

Yours faithfully,  
B. J. BOUGHTON,  
63 Fitzroy Avenue,  
Harborne, Birmingham.  
May 31.

From Mr Brian Rix and others

Sir, We, the undersigned, members of the editorial board of the *Journal of Medical Ethics* and the *Journal of the Medical Association*, fully support Lady Warnock's condemnation of Enoch Powell's Unborn Children (Protection) Bill (feature, May 30) and agree that it would be "absolutely wrong" for it to become law.

Genetic diseases account for a substantial number of all human diseases. Chromosomal abnormalities are found in five to six births per 1,000. Genetic diseases and congenital malformations occur in approximately 2 to 5 per cent of all live births and are the cause of 40 to 50 per cent of deaths in childhood.

Mental handicap is the most common disability in Britain, affecting perhaps as many as half a million people. There is no cure for mental handicap; it is a lifelong disability. Faced with an incurable condition, primary prevention is the ideal goal.

We know, personally and professionally, not only the tragedy of children dying of incurable diseases, but the tragedy of lives limited by handicap. Modern medicine is on the brink of preventing conditions that lead to damaged lives or certain death, but this knowledge will be futile unless further research to develop healthy embryos is undertaken.

This Bill is a giant leap backwards and, if passed, will deny future generations their most fundamental right - a healthy and whole life. The simplistic moral absolutism of some must not be allowed to override the wellbeing of all.

Yours faithfully,  
BRIAN RIX (Chairman, MENCAP Medical Advisory Panel),  
WILLIAM FRASER (Editor, *Journal of Medical Ethics*),  
MICHAEL MARSHALL, BRIAN NORMAN,  
ALEXANDER HARRISON,  
OLIVER PRATT, R. C. MACGILLIVRAY,  
DAVID A. PERKINS, KENNETH S. BOLT,  
DAVID MORRIS, BRIAN STRATFORD,  
FRANK DENNY, ELIZABETH NORMAN,  
MENCAP National Centre,  
123 Golden Lane, EC1.  
May 30.

## Sites and records

From the President of the Council for British Archaeology

Sir, Your leading article (May 23), "After abolition", looked forward to the end of the metropolitan counties. Juxtaposed with your leader was a letter from Professor Paul Harvey expressing concern over the future of archival records in those same counties. If the Government does not act immediately archaeological provision within metropolitan counties faces the same catastrophe.

Within the existing metropolitan counties there is an archaeological service. These services differ in size and structure, but at present there exist countywide sites and monuments records which provide the mechanisms for relating development proposals to known archaeological sites and historic buildings.

The metropolitan counties also make provision for the excavation of archaeological sites and the recording of historic buildings in advance of their destruction. Conservation teams have been established to care for some of the nation's finest urban conservation areas.

The legislation before Parliament makes no specific reference to the provision for the continuation of services of this kind. It would be disastrous if the six metropolitan areas, with their rich heritage dating

from prehistoric times to the Industrial Revolution, were to be left without any effective services for the recording, exploration, protection, and interpretation of that heritage and if the efficient and dedicated teams built up over the past decade were to be dispersed.

It is simply not economic for the range of functions indicated above to be established at district level. Experience in the country at large shows that the county is the minimal viable area for such services.

Yours faithfully,  
T. G. HASSALL,  
Council for British Archaeology,  
112 Kennington Road, SE11.

## Medical charges

From Dr A. W. Robinson

Sir, Mr Coulson (May 27) may be interested to hear about other labour costs. Recently I had a broken car window replaced at the appropriate main dealer garage. The car company approved and agreed labour charge was over £60, including VAT. The job took two men under half an hour.

I regret that there is not the alternative of a National Car Service.

Yours faithfully,  
A. W. ROBINSON,  
30 Brunton Avenue,  
Solihull, West Midlands.

From Mrs Anne Scott

Sir, Lady Warnock, in her able and sincere defence of experiments with human embryos, suggests that the deep and sincere "revulsion and repugnance" which many people feel at the notion of such experiments is due to the "rhetoric" employed by their opponents.

Incidentally, she herself employs such rhetoric when she speaks of having "to defend the rule of law in the jungle of moral simplicity": it would be equally possible to suggest cutting through the jungle of law with the billhook of simple morality. The deliberate setting in motion of the process which leads to the appearance of a child, with the sole intention of interrupting that process and destroying its product - that, put in the most unorthodox and stodgy terms at my command, is what is felt so deeply to be evil.

The principle that it is wrong to do evil in the hope that good will come of it, indeed a moral absolute, but who has not experienced the fact that good ends are not attainable by evil means, because the ends themselves have been twisted and perverted by the time that they are reached?

Lady Warnock regards moral fundamentalism as a "genuine threat": the abdication of moral responsibility is a far greater threat, as the reports of such varied examples of it as drug abuse, the unbridled pursuit of sectional interests and mob violence remind us from the headlines every day.

Yours faithfully,  
ANNE SCOTT,  
24 Southmoor Road, Oxford.

From Mr R. M. L. Winston

Sir, Mrs Peacock, MP (June 3) presumes that Enoch Powell's Bill represents the will of the people of this country. She quotes parliamentary petitions as evidence for support of the Unborn Children (Protection) Bill; more discerning members of Parliament are aware of massive orchestration behind these signatures. The truth is that many people signed petitions believing that research of a very different nature is being done.

Numerous patients of mine from across the United Kingdom signed letters and petitions after being told at meetings, often in church, of Nazi experiments conducted on unborn babies. Without exception, these couples have been shocked and depressed to discover subsequently, that these "experiments" referred to research to improve their own *in-vitro* fertilization therapy.

Mrs Peacock is offended that Mr Powell's supporters are called intolerant and fanatical. They have themselves to blame for using blatantly similar financial language during the Bill's second reading. Mrs Peacock wants infertile women to have test-tube babies. A pity that, unlike the Archbishop of York (June 3), she and most of Mr Powell's supporters have not done any real research - nor did they visit the major NHS units hit by this Bill. If they had, they would realise that there are numerous major loopholes in this Bill allowing embryo research to continue completely unchecked. The real effects will be on thousands of diseased patients whose proper treatment will be curtailed or impossible.

Of course we need legislation to regulate *in-vitro* fertilization. This badly-drafted, hasty and ignorant Bill will merely prevent Government from seeking proper solutions to the complex problems which Warnock addressed.

Yours sincerely,  
R. M. L. WINSTON,  
Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology,  
Hammersmith Hospital,  
Du Cane Road, W12.

From prehistoric times to the Industrial Revolution, were to be left without any effective services for the recording, exploration, protection, and interpretation of that heritage and if the efficient and dedicated teams built up over the past decade were to be dispersed.

It is simply not economic for the range of functions indicated above to be established at district level. Experience in the country at large shows that the county is the minimal viable area for such services.

Yours faithfully,  
T. G. HASSALL,  
Council for British Archaeology,  
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## Medical charges

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Sir, Mr Coulson (May 27) may be interested to hear about other labour costs. Recently I had a broken car window replaced at the appropriate main dealer garage. The car company approved and agreed labour charge was over £60, including VAT. The job took two men under half an hour.

I regret that there is not the alternative of a National Car Service.

Yours faithfully,  
A. W. ROBINSON,  
30 Brunton Avenue,  
Solihull, West Midlands.

indifferent to change, or should be exempt from accountability in their use of public money.

May we look to the leaders of our academic community for an early defence of their ideals and account of their stewardship? What do universities really stand for?

If they do not swiftly make these things clear the danger mounts that both universities and polytechnics will find themselves ruled in every detail by Whitehall, at the dictates of the Government of the day, scant regard being paid to the bigger issues. That would hardly seem the wider role than that of handmaiden of industry and instrument of state".

The case has to be re-argued, in depth, strongly, and soon, and argued in a way that does not suggest that our institutions of higher education are blameless.

## THE TIMES ON THIS DAY

JUNE 4 1970

It was fortuitous that The Times received a first hand account so speedily of the disaster in Peru. The paper's correspondent, John Young, was on assignment for a Special Report in Lima from where he rushed 250 miles to the devastated area.

## Peru's tragic victims cut off from help

From JOHN YOUNG

Chimbote, Northern Peru, June 3  
Less than 72 hours ago this was by Peruvian standards a thriving industrial town of 200,000 people with its own steel mill and a large fleet of fishing boats. Now it lies in ruins with hundreds of its people dead and dying, thousands of others injured and all but a handful of survivors homeless.

Yesterday I was the first foreign reporter to arrive in this area, devastated by Sunday's earthquake. With me were representatives of Oxfam, Caritas, the Catholic relief service, and the Church World Service. Everywhere doctors, nurses and missionaries have implored us to see that aid gets through quickly, especially drugs to prevent an outbreak of typhus and other epidemics as there is no drinking water.

But Chimbote, appalling sight though it is, has come off relatively lightly. Several large concrete buildings are more or less intact, some have electricity, and the hotel where we spent last night is still providing rudimentary service to visitors. The most important fact is that the road south to Lima, although badly damaged, is open to traffic and there is no reason why supplies should not reach the town quickly.

It is on towns and villages to the east of here, hidden in steep narrow valleys and overhanging cliffs, that the earthquake has wreaked its most terrible havoc. Whole communities have been obliterated, among them the towns of Caraz and Yungay which were inundated by a torrent of mud streaming down from a mountain lake.

Thousands of people elsewhere were crushed to death by massive avalanches rolling down from the great heights of these spectacular mountains. Commuters on the main road, the fact that landslides have blocked the narrow winding roads up the valleys and the only way to get aid in to the stricken survivors is by helicopter or light aircraft - which is quite inadequate in the present situation, until the roads are open, which is almost certain to take several more days, there is no way of ascertaining the true extent of the loss of life.

The Government, in declaring last night eight days of national mourning, estimated to possible death toll at a staggering 30,000. This could be putting the figure too high but, on the other hand, if help does not reach the mountain areas soon it may prove to be on the low side.

Driving north from Lima through the desolate scrublands which plunge every 30 or 40 miles into green valleys, one sees relatively little damage for the first two or three hours. The road is cracked badly in places and here and there the wall of a house has collapsed. But families sitting out in front of houses seem almost as though they might be enjoying an afternoon lunch.

Then at Casma, fifty miles north of Chimbote, the true horror becomes suddenly and dramatically visible. This was a pleasant little town of about 2,000 inhabitants with a central square surrounded by trees and cafes. Now it is totally flattened.

Hardly a house is left standing. The main street is a level of mud and rubble with what has been left of children's sand castles. Piles of possessions, beds, wardrobes, tables, kitchenware, deckschairs and mattresses lie stacked in open spaces, while the owners stumble over ruins looking for more.

A projector hangs from the wreckage of the cinema, where a notice is still visible advertising *The Battle of Britain*.

A notice attached to a tree proclaims "Funeral Agency" with awful appropriateness. Dogs bark in sunshine and small children play happily amid the rubble. But the overall impression is of uncomprehending sadness like a family suddenly and senselessly bereaved.

At the other side of town a bearded Dominican missionary, Father Henry Camacho, stands in his garden. To one side is a two-story, perhaps three-story building, which he cradled like a giant sandcastle. "Two of my sons died in there," he says. "They had been told to stand in the archway if there was an earthquake and that's just what they did. As you can see it didn't help them much..."

## Dressing down

From Mr Clive Lord

Sir, Sir Donald Tebbit's experience as a juror, as related in his letter (May 25), exactly mirrored my own when on jury service for five weeks at a crown court last year. Jurors most favoured by defending counsel seemed to be young, casually dressed and of "working class" appearance.

My solution to this was simple: on days when I actively wanted to be selected, I dressed in my shabbiest clothes (never with a tie), adopted a surly expression and was always selected if I managed to reach the "lucky" 15.

If, for any reason, I wished to be excused for the remainder of the day after the daily selections had taken place, I donned my pinstripe suit and school, university or regimental tie, and gazed haughtily at defending counsel: I was invariably challenged.

The result, of course, was potentially unjust for the defendant but convenient for the juror!

Yours faithfully,  
CLIVE LORD,  
24 Strutton Ground, SW1.  
May 30.

## Down to earth

From Mr C. R. Drury

Sir, Linguistic hiccupps were heard on the intercom when I flew with my wife last year to Sri Lanka. The captain informed us: "On our left side, you can't miss Windsor Castle".

Fortunately we did. Yours faithfully,  
COLIN DRURY,  
45 Kersley Street, SW11.







## THE ARTS

## Galleries in Berlin

## Historic marvels at last open to the light

Endless detail, vigorous observation: an eighteenth-century Chinese scroll-painting of Sport on Ice



## Treasures from the Forbidden City/Europe and the Emperors of China

Martin-Gropius-Bau

## Opening display Kunstgewerbemuseum

Since Berlin has had a number of happy collaborations with mainland China on major exhibitions in the past, it is probably not too surprising that Berlin should be permitted to have the first (and only planned) showing outside China of Treasures from the Forbidden City, the cream of the Palace Museum's wonders, especially in the various lines of painting. But even the organizers of the show, which will be at the Martin-Gropius-Bau until August 18 as part of this year's 'Horizons' world-culture festival, were amazed and delighted at the scale and the magnificence of China's contribution.

Not only has none of the artworks included ever been seen outside China, but most of them have never been seen by the public inside China either.

The life-size imperial portraits on silk and the enormous scroll paintings which chronicle events such as the Emperor Kangxi's southern journey in 1691, more than 200 metres of which (about a quarter of the whole) runs round three sides of the Martin-Gropius-Bau's cavernous central space, have the sparkle and freshness of objects which have never in their whole history been open to the light for any length of time. Indeed, with paintings which were in the imperial collection for some centuries, we can even know just how many times each individual owner had them unrolled for his own personal decoration: each time one was seen it received the imperial stamp, so that we can know, for example, that the scroll of grasses and flowers growing along the Great Wall, a most astonishing fusion of satisfactory aesthetic pattern-making and detailed documentary usefulness, was consulted by the Emperor Qianlong precisely eight times.

Even for Western experts the show will have its surprises. The emphasis is on the ceremonial court styles of the Qing dynasty, preoccupied as they were with individual portraiture, crisp outline and carefully worked detail, gives an unfam-

iliar perspective on Chinese painting, in which of course we are used to the other tradition, the free style of brush-drawing so highly prized, with its associated downgrading of colour as such. True, there are superb examples of that too, such as the breathtaking scroll *Flowers and Plants of the Four Seasons*, by Xu Wei (1521-1593), and the amazing smaller painting of a man riding beneath a plum-tree by the same painter, an incontrovertible demonstration that less is more. But what sticks in the memory is the opening succession of large imperial portraits, with their gradual introduction of Western perspective (under Jesuit influence), and their dazzlingly vivid depiction of individual character, from the wily elder-statesman Kangxi to the massively confident younger image of the same man. And then there are the scrolls, endlessly detailed and full of vigorous invention (or rather observation, for it is surprising how little these paintings obtrusively owe to artistic convention). A whole way of life is disclosed to us in an almost cinematic fashion, and there are many touches of humour even in the midst of ritual events like the shooting competition on ice-skates. The

great southern journey scrolls become, at once a map, a chronicle and a survey, while still remaining eminently satisfactory and complete as works of art, in a form virtually without parallel in the West.

The principal show also includes select examples of the finest Chinese ceramics, the earliest and best bronzes and jades. And upstairs there is a supplementary show, illuminating and sometimes enchanting, called *Europe and the Emperors of China*, drawing some of the rarest items from European collections to illustrate the history of China through Western eyes and the image of China in Western imaginations. Here are another section of the southern journey scrolls, which has somehow arrived in the Musée Guimet, and the Longobardi Globe from London, and numerous pieces of chinoiserie from all over Europe to illuminate the craze and create a piquant contrast with the real thing down below.

While the reconditioned Martin-Gropius-Bau is thus occupied, its present contents have just been put on display again after 40 years out of sight while the ticklish question of their new permanent home was decided. The national collection of European applied arts,

roughly equivalent to the relevant sections of the Victoria and Albert, is now in a brand new museum building, opened three weeks ago, as part of a long-term plan, dating back to 1966, to rehouse the most important Berlin collections of European art in a massive museum complex (five in all). They will join Mies van der Rohe's Nationalgalerie and Scharoun's Philharmonie Hall, with its new chamber annex, and Staatsbibliothek, in the largest cultural concentration within the Wall.

Is that a good idea? How will the existing buildings on the site be incorporated? What - a very German question - about the whole philosophy of museum management, the scheme implies? What, more specifically, do people feel about the design of the new complex, the work of a Scharoun disciple, Rolf Gutbrod, who freely admits that his work is criticized as "grandfather's architecture" ("But then why not? I am a grandfather, after all?"). All these questions, looming over the one new museum, tend to distract from the wonders within its walls. For the record, however, the building is not encouraging. A weird *melange* of materials, it juxtaposes brick facings, evidently only skin-

deep if you take a close side-view ("They were big on brick in the Sixties," says Gutbrod apologetically) with rough-cast concrete and smooth suburban cement on the exterior, and inside mixes rough concrete, painted and unpainted, with tiles, wood, polished granite and miles of super-cinema wall-to-wall carpeting. All the ugly but vaguely functional-looking detailing on ceilings and stairs, and display cases proves on inspection to be merely someone's idea of decorative. Frumpy on the outside, fussy on the inside, is not a good formula to start with.

But - and it is a big but - the building does work quite well as a setting for a real Wunderkammer. The museum's collections of medieval metalwork and enamels, of jewellery and of tapestries, will come as a revelation, and, though the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries seem a bit thin on the ground, it more than recovers with one of the best collections of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century glass anywhere in the world, and a stunning display of recent art pots.

Obviously the collection cannot match overall, nor does it try to, the scope and variety of the Victoria and Albert or the

Theatre  
Ongoing fantasy situationWoman in Mind  
Scarborough

Like logs on a slow-moving river, the statistics pile up: the thirty-third year of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, the thirty-second play of Alan Ayckbourn to be premiered here. Or maybe, since Mr Ayckbourn's effusions follow such a familiar scheme, we should call this Part 32 of the same work.

As usual we discover mild, unstylish, rather feeble-minded, but not unsympathetic, middle-class characters humouring one another's foibles and wriggling in the grip of conventional contradictions which require an outside force for their happy resolution. In this instalment of the continuing situation comedy, the outside force comes from within the central character's mind and the resolution is bafflement to the point of quiescence.

The woman of the title comes to herself sprawled in her garden with a man speaking gobbledegoose at her. It emerges that she has knocked herself out by standing on the tines of a garden rake and that the man is a GP. To his insistence that she is in a small, unremarkable suburban garden, the woman opposes her fantasy, liberated by concussion, that she is the mistress of expansive acres peopled by an adoring family who talk poosh, dress all in white and drink "chambers".

With a fantasy life such as this, it might be thought that she deserves everything she gets from her real family - her husband, a stodgy vicar, who pays more attention to his history of the parish than he does to the connubial bed, her drab sister-in-law who makes omelettes with Earl Gray instead of herbs, and finally her disaffected son, a refugee from a repressive cult.

These "real" people are unfortunately only a shade less stock than the phantoms which increasingly contaminate the woman's perception, and which take a turn for the demonic. Her husband's manuscript is unaccountably burned during a thunderstorm, and her fantasy family stage an almost incomprehensible finale combining a wedding with a race meeting.

Ursula Jones is pettish and rather fraught in the lead role and Russell Dixon seems altogether too acute for her husband, Barry McCarthy - her GP is Ayckbourn's Man incarnate: itchy, weight-shifting, embarrassed and embarrassing.

Martin Cropper

● The refurbished Croydon Warehouse reopens on June 25 with a new play, *Cheapside*, by David Allen, set in the London of 1591-92, and including Marlowe and Shakespeare among its characters. James Bolam leads the cast.

## Television

## The sceptical approach

*Bodyline* (BBC 2) dwells somewhere in the shade of *Charlies of Fire*, at least in the sense that sportsmen are granted quasi-heroic status and that sport (in this case cricket) is seen to be a reasonable substitute for religion of a more orthodox kind.

In fact the historical survey at the beginning of last night's episode (the first of five) would suggest that cricket was somehow one of the great representative features of empire, and that the rather drab cricketers revealed were the equivalent of Livingstone in will and of Brunel in industry. Yet the game itself lacks interest for the vast majority of mankind, and the effort of

*Bodyline* to turn it into the material of great drama deserves to rank with the alchemist's aim to convert dross into gold. One might as well make a television drama out of bee-keeping.

The first episode was concerned with the beginnings of a rivalry between English and Australian cricketers, which apparently led to the development of that dangerous bowling technique which gives the series its title.

The production comes from Australia, and therefore can be expected to deal with the English contingent in a somewhat sceptical way: never has a stuffed shirt and the stiff upper lip been presented in so melodramatic and therefore unconvincing a manner. This was not helped by the fact that many of the "English" characters had marked

Australian accents, and by a script which owed more to the tones of the crutest soap opera than to historical reconstruction.

As a result, it was not easy to work up any enthusiasm for the histories of Douglas Jardine or Donald Bradman, and it seemed particularly difficult for these characters to bear the weight of national and social significance which was being dropped on them from a great height. A bat and a ball are not quite the materials of myth, in any case, and it is hard to see how they can be kept up for the next four instalments. If only rats could stop play.

Peter Ackroyd

## Rock

## Chris Rea

## Hammersmith Odeon

Whatever happens during the next few weeks at St James's Park and Wembley Stadium, I doubt that I shall enjoy another concert this year as much as that given on Sunday night by Chris Rea, the singer and songwriter from Middlesbrough whose latest British tour has turned into a celebration of the welcome chart success of "Stainsby Girls", his slice of sweet nostalgia.

The adjective that comes most readily to mind in discussion of Rea is "outfit". His voice, to take his most obvious asset, has the kind of sandpaper texture typical of the first division of British blue-eyed soul singers, such as Stevie Winwood, Eric Burdon and Van Morrison; lower in range than theirs, Rea's has something in common with the soft-focus gruffness of Dire Straits' Mark Knopfler.

His songs make their statements with an affecting simplicity that he shares with such mature craftsmen as Knopfler, Bruce Springsteen and Don Henley. Some, such as "Stainsby Girls" and the powerful "Steel River", deal with his north-eastern roots; most are about relationships, and among the best of these are the sombre "Love's Strange Ways" and the lovely "Josephine", which certainly deserves to be his next hit.

The 15 songs in his 100-minute show were meticulously arranged, using to the full the capabilities of his five-piece band and making imaginative use of instrumental play-offs, often featuring the keyboards of Kevin Leach and Max Middleton. Rea's own guitar also deserved its solo space, particularly for the shivering bottleneck solo on "Love's Strange Ways" and the reticence of his liquid phrases on the jazzy, finger-snapping "Dancing Shoes".

The sense of enjoyment on both sides of the footlights was such that Rea and the audience could hardly bear to let each other go. His final encore, a cunningly underplayed version of "Fool If You Think It's Over", better known as a hit for Elkie Brooks, typified the modesty and musicianship of a thoroughly admirable pop star.

Richard Williams

## Gil Scott-Heron

## Ronnie Scott's

Although he does not like being labelled, particularly as a "protest singer", Gil Scott-Heron may fairly be described as a radical black poet and jazz-funk musician. A former novelist and university lecturer, he is a highly literate and articulate man who has chosen the language of the street and the medium of music to convey his politically charged message.

The content of the performance was unequivocal. Condemnation of President Reagan and his administration was expressed with characteristic vigour. The daunting catalogue of dissatisfaction was conveyed with grace and humour, and, while it was plain the audience

were with him all the way, he resisted the temptation to turn the concert into a sermon to the converted.

Leading a four-piece band, Scott-Heron sang fluently in his rich, easy baritone, the warmth and depth of his voice was never more evident than during "Blue Collar", where he sounded at moments like Isaac Hayes, while "Save the Children" and "Washington D.C.", a paean to his home town, were similarly impressive.

The band provided a mixed contribution. The keyboardist, Kim Jordan, played with verve while the saxophonist Ron Holloway's solos displayed an invigorating range of high-frequency jazz phrases. The drummer, Steve Walker, lacked the power to match this intensity, while Robert Gordon's ostentatious bass playing was a little too slap-happy.

The small club atmosphere of Ronnie Scott's favoured the intimate style of delivery as Scott-Heron addressed the audience like friends in his front room.

David Sinclair

Spectrum/Protheroe  
Guildhall, Bath

Simon Holt's new piece for the Bath Festival was billed as a *Clarinet Quintet*, but the work when it arrived disclaimed any such traditionalism. What we heard was a *Burlesca oscura*, an assortment of images scored for clarinet, bass clarinet with string quartet. The suggestion of a carnival to explain this music is the composer's own, and it is apt. The piece is a 14-minute parade of mostly brief and vividly coloured masks, demanding characterful and virtuoso playing from all involved.

Pascal Rogé  
Queen Elizabeth Hall

This was utterly disgraceful. Not, I hasten to add, Pascal Rogé's playing, but rather the appalling circumstances under which he was obliged to give this recital. Immediately outside the hall a rock band was performing, if you please, and moreover, it could be heard quite distinctly inside.

Now, I have nothing against rock music, but there is a time and place for everything, and clearly this was neither. G.L.C. take note and be ashamed.

When Rogé's aristocratic playing demands detailed comment, it is unfortunate to have to devote space to such an issue. Unsurprisingly he was not left untouched by the noise, though in his opening selection of Bach Inventions he showed

an impressive command of mood and touch, characterizing the two-part F major Invention, for example, with a teasing interplay of staccato and legato articulations, and colouring the chromaticisms of its F minor three-part counterpart with emotive subtlety.

Indeed, the chief casualties of the commotion seemed to be Brahms's Four Ballades, Op 10, which here lacked lyrical depth as well as that sense of unity for which Rogé's playing is widely renowned.

But the anger which he surely, and justifiably, felt was allowed to erupt dramatically in the first movement of Beethoven's Sonata, Op 111, and if the elaborate Arietta of that work did not affect one quite as it can, that may well be the fault of one's own concentration, not his.

There could be no doubting the quality of Rogé's reading of

Berg's Op 1 Sonata, however, in which there emerged a power and dynamic range hitherto absent. Above that, Rogé discovered a ripeness of expression in this post-Brahmsian piece that really made it sound like the searchingly lyrical work I have always suspected it to be.

Stephen Pettitt

Cantanti Camerati/  
Bowyer  
Wigmore Hall

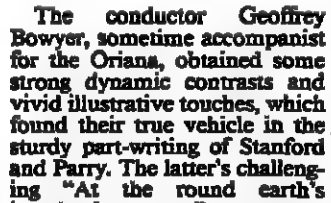
Offering a programme based on the repertoire of the now defunct Oriana Madrigal Society, a trial-blazing organization which once numbered Boulton and Beecham in its bass pews, inevitably guaranteed quintessential English entertainment. The triumphs of this Oriana actually included intro-

ducing Faurt's Requiem to England. Its usual orbit, however, was among the nymphs and swains of the English pastoral landscape, and this was reflected in Cantanti Camerati's choice.

Nowadays 30 voices does seem too many for sixteenth-century madrigals; about 25 too many, some purists might say. Doubtless Sir Adrian or Sir Thomas would have been scathingly disagreed. Nevertheless the timbre and attack of these Richmond-based amateurs did seem too woolly and generalized for a diaphanous quickstep like Weekes's "On the plains, fairy trains", where diction and delicacy count for so much. Some typically doleful Dowland suited the choir's warm blend and secure intonation much more; better still were the full-throated refrains given to the *Triumphs of Oriana*, madrigals which concluded the programme.

Paul Griffiths

Simon Holt: vividly coloured masks



seemed responsible for an undue obviousness in the word-setting, and it was the instrumental music alone that came near flying light, especially in the bedonkian dance of the second movement and the bifurcating melodies of the third.

Michael Finnissy's *Banambur*, for Pierrot quintet, looked further than Harvey in the same south-easterly direction: the word is Australian Aboriginal for the morning star, and the music consists of quiet cascades repeatedly falling into uncomfortable, creeping quarter-tone-mistuned unisons.

Richard Morrison

The conductor Geoffrey Bowyer, sometime accompanist for the Oriana, obtained some strong dynamic contrasts and vivid illustrative touches, which found their true vehicle in the sturdy part-writing of Stanford and Parry. The latter's challenging "At the round earth's imagined corners" was sustained with only the occasional uncertainty, and Stanford's celebrated "Bluebird" soared on the wings of some pleasing and well-controlled soprano tone.

Congential solo contributions from Bowyer (on the piano), and the choir members Phillida Bannister and Warwick Harte, added another dimension to the celebrations. And amid this medley of Merrie English sounds it was good to have a little wild colonialism: Percy Grainger's hypnotic sea-shanty arrangement "Shallow Brown".

Miss Kim's bowing arm was not always wholly reliable; there were unscripted squeaks, for example, in Bach's First Cello Suite and in Schumann's *Fantasiestücke*. Yet, when the interpretative insights are of a high order, such deficiencies count for little. And few cellists would show boldness enough to include Pizetti's lush *Tre canti* and Kodaly's *Sonatina*, nor gifts enough to play those works with Kim's maturity.

Stephen Pettitt

## London débuts

## Attention to detail

here). It was to be John Duarte's Greek Suite that provided the main attraction after the interval, and the delicate lacework of the third movement and Eastern-inspired sideways vibrato of the fourth introduced an exotic taste of colour that was charming. A pity that in the outer movements of this piece they sounded as if they were sight-reading.

The Smithsonian String Quartet from America is led by Jaap Schroeder, who is one of the most experienced proponents of original instruments active today. Not that the ensemble approached quartets by Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven in an academic manner; in Mozart's K465, the "Dissonance", Schroeder put behind him a slightly static mood that had for me marred a Haydn work, and he relaxed into some

more tonally and emotionally ingratiating playing. The gut strings, aside from embarrassing the cellist with a dramatic breakage, acted against any one instrument standing out (or playing out) from the others, the music having a uniformity of texture that also heightened structural cohesion. But in this low-profile handling the music has a tendency to patter along without one noticing very much in terms of detail. However, on account of Schroeder, the Smithsonian have an authority that is persuasive in forcing one to listen to this music anew.

James Methuen-Campbell

The American cellist Helen Kim's programme had about it a mark of thoughtfulness, and so, it proved, did her playing. In

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192	127	Do Nv	126	•	7.9	14.7	12.1
498	498	Bond	471	•	24.3	23.2	22.9
100	100	Carbon Count	95	+10	1.0	1.0	1.0
291	293	Chapman	233	•	11.4	4.9	13.3
119	85	Chi (Nelson)	742	•	8.4	8.3	8.3
185	113	Cropper (Sawyer)	710	•	10.6	8.2	3.4
138	138	Curran	176	•	1.0	1.0	1.0
390	442	Emmerson Pulp	418	•	14.0	8.2	8.2
173	74	Good Books	86	•	3.7	8.3	8.3
265	174	Grant Relations	222	•	8.1	7.3	22.2
515	515	Love H-G-C-E	275	+77	1.1	1.1	22.2
174	174	McCarthy	174	•	7.7	7.7	7.7
89	79	More O'Connell	79	•	4.9	4.9	4.9
131	114	Norton Open	121	•	4.8	3.8	18.4
39	39	Ogby & Mather	39	•	1.0	1.0	1.0

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199	Prop & Fly	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
198	Prop & Fly	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
197	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
196	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
195	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
194	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
193	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
192	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
191	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
190	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
189	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
188	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
187	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
186	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
185	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
184	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
183	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
182	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
181	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
180	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
179	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
178	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
177	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
176	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
175	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
174	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
173	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
172	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
171	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
170	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
169	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
168	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
167	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
166	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
165	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
164	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
163	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
162	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
161	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
160	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
159	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
158	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
157	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
156	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
155	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
154	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
153	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
152	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
151	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
150	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
149	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
148	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
147	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
146	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
145	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
144	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
143	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
142	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
141	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
140	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
139	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
138	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
137	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
136	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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134	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
133	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
132	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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130	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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128	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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125	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
124	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
123	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
122	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
121	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
120	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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114	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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48	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
47	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
46	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
45	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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38	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
37	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
36	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
35	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
34	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
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25	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
24	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
23	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
22	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
21	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
20	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
19	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
18	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
17	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
16	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
15	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
14	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
13	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
12	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
11	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
10	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
9	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
8	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
7	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
6	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
5	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
4	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
3	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
2	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8
1	Prop Ridge	151	•	15.7	5.1	16.8

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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Decision day for the Stock Exchange

Today the 4,460 members of the Stock Exchange have the right to turn up and cast their votes in two separate but intimately connected ballots: over the future shape of the British and Irish stock markets. It is important to make the point that this is a national (and arguably international) issue, rather than something purely for London, for it is by such broad horizons that the verdict must be judged.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, the tireless chairman of the Stock Exchange, has recognized these wider frontiers in recent weeks by his exhaustive "roadshow", at which, we are told, he was heard with courtesy and a growing perception by the rank and file when he said that the Stock Exchange Council's proposals were in their interests.

The most fundamental of the two votes is to allow non-member organizations to acquire 100 per cent of the equity in member firms. The second relates to financial arrangements for non-members to acquire membership status, and hence for existing members to be compensated for admitting what is expected to be the hot breath of extensive and fierce competition.

A taste of the shape of things to come has, not entirely coincidentally, been given by the Bank of England's announcement that 31 firms have applied to become market makers in gilt-edged stock under the new rules, offering to commit up to £700 million in the process.

By no means all of that is new money; much of it is a redeployment of capital that already operates in the existing gilt market. But perhaps a quarter, or close to £200 million, if fresh. That represents both a challenge and an opportunity. Brokers will be faced with keener prices, and nearly half the applicants say they want to cater for smaller investors.

If the Stock Exchange membership were to throw out the first vote today, the gilt market would have to be conducted elsewhere, and the Exchange's own rules would make it hard for members to trade outside their own market. The high-volume equities, too, would be traded elsewhere, giving members' clients an additional layer of changes to cope with - always assuming they stayed loyal.

Happily, that vote requires only a simple 50.1 per cent majority. The lesser proposal, by a quirk, demands 75 per cent approval. There have been signs in the past few days that Sir Nicholas is steeling himself for defeat there. That will be a nuisance, but not a resigning matter.

All the Council will be able to do is to come up with a more open-ended formula, however, as defenders of the market mechanism, they cannot expect to charge more than the market price for the shares that are being conferred on the by a stroke of the pen.

## Equality versus actuarial equity

The pensions industry greeted most of the proposals contained in yesterday's green paper with nods of approval, but not the clause stating that the new private pension agreements should give equal treatment to both men and women. Reaction among the life offices ranged from a restrained knitting of brows to the outright horror of an actuary spurned.

The proposal concerns the cost of annuities bought with a personal portable money-purchase policy when an employee retires. At present women pay more for the same size of annuity for the well established reason that, on average, they live longer than men and so receive their annuity for more years. The Government now seems determined, with a helping push from the EEC, to make annuities cost the same for both sexes.

This is presented in the green paper as a logical extension of another proposal: to

give widowers as well as widows an entitlement to at least half their spouse's pension. It is, in fact, the opposite since this would further raise the actuarial cost of married women's pensions. And by going against what the pension offices insist are firmly based actuarial principles, the equal treatment of men and women could produce some strange effects in the market place.

The most likely effect will be to push up the cost of annuities for men. A pension office will not be able to predict how many of each sex will be buying its annuities and will be forced to play safe, covering itself through higher charges. Alternatively, companies may introduce some form of quota system, limiting the number of each sex to whom they will sell annuities. This way they would be able to predict their costs more accurately.

The proposals could even lead to specialization among life offices. At present, for example, many companies have introduced discounts on life assurance policies for non-smokers. This has pushed up the cost of policies for smokers who are no longer being subsidized by non-smokers. The result is that smokers can often find cheaper policies with those companies selling annuities would specialize by only selling to men, thus keeping the cost for their client down. But that would only make it harder for women to buy annuities, which can surely not be the Government's intention.

## Banking on a golden future

The possibility of a much-enlarged Kioof mine was first mooted two years ago. Now we are promised it will materialize. As with the formation of Driefontein Consolidated in 1981, Gold Fields of South Africa is making a long-term commitment despite a relatively low and stagnant dollar gold price, historically low yields on South African gold shares, and an increasingly unstable political environment in the republic.

The plans indicate that Kioof, a fairly young mine, will effectively double in size. For a total expenditure of R453 million (£178 million), the area to the south and west of the present mine will be developed eventually to supply a milling rate of 180,000 tonnes a month.

Reserves of 39 million tonnes have an average grade in situ of 10 grammes a tonne. They offer further evidence that South African gold production will be maintained to the end of the century.

The financial arrangements are characteristically involved. Kioof is a quoted company, 30 per cent owned by GFSA and hence 11 per cent by Consolidated Gold Fields. GFSA is the chief vendor of the Break Bank area rights in return for which it will receive 35,000 Kioof shares and R3.5 million towards exploration costs. GFSA will stump up R120 million by way of Kioof convertible debentures, which, if exercised, would give GFSA a further 9 per cent of Kioof.

Gold Fields must be hoping that the gold market will look healthier by 1990, when production is scheduled to begin. The high Rand gold price of around R20,000 a kilogramme is the result of the Rand's depreciation against the dollar, and that eases the burden of expansion in local terms.

But the brisk internal inflation partly caused by weak currency, rapidly rising black miners' wages and the new strength of black trade unions, threatens profit margins. And investors will not continue for ever to feel secure with yields that take little account of the country's political troubles. Nevertheless, South Africa and its gold mining industry have no choice, save to assume there is a future and to plan for it.

## Bankers warned of economic 'war' as US growth slows

From Bailey Morris, Hong Kong

Western bankers and political officials were warned yesterday that a new "cold war" between the two economic superpowers of the United States and Japan poses the most serious threat to global stability.

Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, said in a speech to the International Monetary Conference that the economic slowdown in the United States was sowing seeds of frustration and discontent which could soon erupt into a full-scale trade war. Bilateral quotas, subsidized financing on high projects, import surcharges, and other protectionist actions in the US are likely in the months ahead, Dr Mahathir said.

The atmosphere had soured because of a fundamental shift

in economic power away from the West and towards the East where Japan was dominant in the Association of South East Asian Nations.

"Already we are arguably in the first phase of an economic cold war between these two very important economic colossi of the Pacific," Dr Mahathir said.

His warning was delivered on a day in which the West's leading bankers met to assess the impact of slowing US growth, and ways both to recycle Japan's huge trade surplus and to tap into the burgeoning Chinese market.

Sir Peter Walters, chairman of BP, attempted to scotch rumours that BP was no longer interested in exploring for oil off China's shore in the second



Dr Mahathir: Atmosphere soured by power shift

round of bidding which began on Saturday.

Admitting that BP had been disappointed during the first stage of its oil exploration efforts, Sir Peter said it was none the less open to further activity.

Overall, Sir Peter said east Asia would be the region emphasized by most oil companies to the end of the decade because primary energy demand was projected to rise faster there, with an average annual rate of growth of 5 per cent until 1990, than any where else.

Mr Joe Albritton, chairman of the Riggs National Bank of Washington, said this annual IMC conference of the biggest international banks marked the first time that these institutions had admitted publicly that Asia was the new world engine of economic growth.

He agreed with the assessment of Dr Mahathir that the Pacific nations would continue to fuel global economic growth for the rest of this decade and possibly for the rest of the century.

## The Times read by 53% more investors

There has been a remarkable surge of readership of *The Times* among people who own stocks and shares. During the half-year ended in March, 424,000 shareholders read *The Times*, an increase of 53 per cent over the previous six-month period, according to the latest independent National Readership Survey.

The attractions of the paper to shareholders are many. After changes and improvements in the Finance/Industry section and the introduction last summer of the Portfolio game, which was designed to draw attention to improved coverage of stock market prices and other financial statistics.

The rise coincided with a 25 per cent jump in the number of shareholders in the community, largely as a result of the flotation of the British Telecom issue. This was not, however, reflected in either the *Guardian* or the *Daily Telegraph* which recorded rises of just 1.2 per cent and 8.5 per cent of shareholders readers over the same period.

As a result of this switch, *The Times*, now offers advertisers the most cost-effective vehicle of any national daily or Sunday newspaper for contacting shareholders.

The National Readership Survey studies the population's readership of some 200 newspapers and magazines under the auspices of NICRA, a joint body for publishers, advertisers and their agents. It shows that *The Times*, traditionally cost-effective for reaching senior managers, professionals and administrators, (the advertiser's category A) now offers the lowest cost per thousand of any national daily newspaper for contacting categories AB and ABC as well, including respectively middle and junior management and professional people.

As a result of greater readership among young managers, *The Times* is particularly economical for contacting readers between 15 and 45 in these categories.

Among special categories, the survey finds that *The Times* is the cheapest advertising medium among national daily and Sunday newspapers for addressing readers with further education beyond the age of 19, affluent readers with an income of £11,690 or more per year (the highest category surveyed) and those who take holidays in North America.

## Newsagents optimistic

The future for Britain's 30,000 newsagents was looking brighter thanks to the newsagent owners Mr Rupert Murdoch and Mr Robert Maxwell, said Mr Michael Patrick, president of the National Federation of Retail Newsagents, at the federation's annual conference in Scarborough yesterday.

Newsagents, Mr Patrick said, welcomed Mr Murdoch's 24-hour newspaper conception, the prospect of a new Sunday newspaper from Mr Clive Thornton, former chief executive of the Mirror Group, and greater use of colour and increased publication through Mr Maxwell.

## Bank outlines gilts market structure

By William Kay, City Editor

The Bank of England yesterday announced what amounts to the running order for the restructured market in gilt-edged stocks which is due to take effect next year as part of the broad reform of the Stock Exchange.

A field which was privately estimated to be as large as 30 firms at one time has been whittled down to 31 "whose applications are under active consideration".

These 31 are now being allowed to look around at the intentions of their would-be rivals, so that they can decide whether to proceed. By June 17 they must confirm that they still wish to become market-makers, but it is understood that the Governor of the Bank, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, is satisfied with the level and quality of candidates so far.

The 31 firms have provisionally indicated that they are willing to commit between £600 million and £700 million to the new market.

These sums can be multiplied by 30 to gauge the amount of stock that will be capable of being handled by the market on that basis. Last year the turnover of the gilt market was £270 billion, or just over £1 billion per working day.

No names of applicants are being released at this stage, but they are believed to include the

leading discount houses, the four principal clearing banks, the existing gilt jobbers and several American securities houses.

Five firms have indicated they will commit up to £10 million, 12 between £10 million and £20 million, 10 between £20 million and £30 million, and four are offering more than £30 million. One firm has indicated a figure of £50 million.

The applicants have also said what size of deal they would be willing to quote for. Eight will deal in £5 million or more in conventional full-coupon short-dated stocks, and four in that amount of longer.

Nine will deal in between £2.5 million and £5 million of shorts, and eight in that amount of longer. Ten will deal in between £1 million and £2.5 million of shorts, and 11 in that amount of longer. Four firms will deal in up to £1 million of shorts, and eight in that amount of longer.

Most significant for the future of the stock market is that half the applicants have said that they are either considering or definitely want to have a presence on the Stock Exchange floor. This runs counter to speculation that the new gilt market would be traded mainly on the telephone or electronically.

## Business chiefs condemn get-tough VAT stance

By Patricia Wheatcroft

Pressure is growing for the Government to change its decision that VAT defaulters should be subject to instant penalties with no chance of pleading mitigation. Both the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors say that the proposed legislation is far too harsh, while many tax experts fear that similar automatic and invariable penalties might soon be applied to other forms of taxation.

The proposal that there should be automatic penalties for traders who fail to pay the right level of VAT at the right time were originally made in the Keith Report and are now incorporated in the Finance Bill.

Ten days ago, as the Bill went through its committee stage, the Minister of State, Mr Harvey Hayhoe, angered his own backbenchers by withdrawing Clause 23, which gave the

Commissioners for Customs and Excise power to mitigate the penalties for most cases of late or low VAT payments.

Mr John Wilkins, of the CBI's taxation department, said: "The penalties are very severe. With the power of mitigation it could have been made a tolerable regime but without, we think it will be extremely severe on taxpayers."

The automatic penalties, which can be as high as 30 per cent of unpaid tax, are aimed at discouraging the four traders in 10 who do not pay their VAT on time. The only way a defaulter would now be able to escape the penalty would be to satisfy a VAT tribunal that he had acted with due diligence and had a reasonable excuse.

Mr Hayhoe's critics say there will be many instances where "due diligence" cannot be proved, but where the full penalties are not deserved.

IN BRIEF

## New-look unit trusts

Today *The Times* launches the first part of its revised and expanded service for unit trust and insurance bond prices. The Unit Trust Information Service has been allocated half a page to accommodate a considerably greater number of trusts in what we hope is a more readable format.

The price changes have been standardized, so that they record the daily change of the mid-price, halfway between bid and offer. These changes are being calculated independently by Exchange Telegraph, rather than by the unit trust managers themselves, and on Saturday we shall be quoting the change over the week.

Next Saturday, we shall begin an enhanced Weekly Insurance Bond Service, which will also cover a half-page in its own right.

## Harrods boost

The rise in the number of tourists from the United States encouraged by the strength of the dollar has helped push trade at Harrods, the Knightsbridge store up by 30 per cent this year.

## Doubled profits

Carlton Communications, the television services and production group, has increased interim pretax profits to £4.9 million for the six months to March 31, up from £2.4 million. Turnover rose to £16.5 million from £9.4 million. The interim dividend is increased to 1.95p from 1.46p. *Tempos, page 19*

Murray Johnstone and Ivory & Sims, the Scottish fund management groups, are linking up with Yamachi Investment Trust Management of Japan to provide Yamachi with advice on investment outside Japan. Both groups see the tie-up as a way of improving their position in Japan where they foresee considerable opportunities for fund management companies with an international profile.

## Share offers

Polly Peck's long-awaited plans to buy the outstanding shares in sister companies Cornhill Holdings and Inter-City Investment Group, were released yesterday. Terms of the offers are 21 for 20 Cornhill and one for five Inter-City. *Tempos, page 19*

## D'Abo support

Mrs Jennifer d'Abo's bid for Sincova, the fashion group, has won support from shareholders owning 26.45 per cent of the company and the offer has been extended until June 14.

Aetna Life and Casualty, the United States insurance group, is now unlikely to buy European Banking Company, the consortium bank in which Midland Bank has a stake. However, discussions are still believed to be continuing with Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank and other potential buyers.

## News capital

Mr Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation is planning to double its authorized share capital to A\$200 million (£102.5 million) through the creation of 199.98 million 50 cent ordinary shares and a 10,000 redeemable A\$1 share issue.

## French buy Oric

Oric Products International, the computer firm which was put into receivership four months ago with debts of more than £5 million, has been sold to a French company, Eureka Informatique, the receiver, Mr Denis Cross, of Chater and Myhill, has announced.

## Brazil and IMF set for debt clash

From Patrick Knight, São Paulo

A gulf separates the new Brazilian government and the latest mission from the International Monetary Fund as debt negotiations start again.

The government is anxious to create millions of jobs through a massive programme of public works, particularly in the backward north-east, as well as ambitious agricultural reforms.

The last thing Brazil's new leaders want to contemplate is renewed recession. They say the IMF cannot ask for this.

But Mr Thomas Reichman, the head of the latest IMF mission, here to prepare Brazil's eighth letter of intent, says a sharp shock is needed. Mr Reichman wants Brazil's inflation rate of 225 per cent halved by the end of next year.

The new administration would like the repayment period of Brazil's \$45 billion debt stretched to 16 years and the banks to be obliged to share the risk, should trade be hit by events beyond Brazil's control.

The whole IMF philosophy is being questioned by some sectors of the government, which see Brazil as being on a treadmill from which there is no escape under the present formula.

## Pound goes above \$1.30

The pound rose above \$1.30 for the first time for nine months yesterday, raising hopes that satisfactory money supply figures today will leave room for a small cut in base rates.

Money market interest rates fell with the three-month interbank rate down 1/8 to 12 1/2 per cent.

The pound traded at \$1.3005 before profit-taking brought it

back to a close of \$1.2917, a gain of 52 points on the day. Later in New York, the pound was quoted at \$1.2910.

The sterling index rose 0.2 to 80.5, its best since May 21, last year as the pound was firm both against a weak dollar and, supported by high interest rates in Britain, against other currencies.

## MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS	
FT Ind Ord	1,010.7 (+8.2)
FT All Share	1,010.7 (+8.2)
FT Govt Securities	81.92 (+0.58)
FT-SE 100	1,324.6 (+11.8)
Bargains	23,216
Dataseam USM	109.23 (-0.07)
New York	
Dow Jones	1,312.16 (-3.25)
Nikkei Dow	12,473.41 (-216.06)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1,641.25 (+25.38)
Amsterdam	212.1 (+0.7)
Sydney: AO	873.5 (-1.0)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1,355.0 (+9.3)
Brussels	
General	373.84 (+9.06)
Paris: CAC	232.5 (-0.8)
Zurich	
SKA General	359.80 (+1.90)

GOLD	
London fixings	
Am \$316.85-318.10	
Sw \$315.75-316.25	(£244)
244.50	
New York \$315.65	
Comex (latest)	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES	
Intervention Vtd	8 1/2 +2
Liberty	625 +75
Oscorics Grp	80 +10
Body Shop Int	838 +83
Hollis Grp	29 +3
Applied Botanicals	2 1/2 + 1/2
Keep Trust	51 +8
Empire Stores	128 +12
Yellerton Invest	35 +3
A. G. Stanley	71 +6
FKI Electronics	49 +4
Palma Grp	38 +3
Stewart Naim	14 +1
Owen Owen	285 +20
Cooper Ind	18 1/2 + 1 1/2
Mount Charlotte Invest	94 +6
Lowe Howard-Spink	281 +20

FALLS	
Common Brothers	48 -10
Rotagrip	5 1/2 -1
Spectrum Grp	30 -5
Bio-Isolates	27 -4
Quest Automation	30 -3
Accord Computers	12 -1
Greenall Whitley "A"	40 -3
Comb Tech Corp	14 1/2 -3

CURRENCIES	
London:	
£: \$1.2917 (+0.0052)	
£: DM 3.9480 (+0.0130)	
£: Sfr 3.3150 (+0.0040)	
£: ¥12.0150 (+0.0150)	
£: Yen 321.20 (-2.15)	
£ Index: 80.5 (+0.2)	
New York:	
£: \$1.2910	
£: DM 3.0390	
\$ Index: 144.7	

INTEREST RATES	
London:	
Bank Base: 12 1/2-12 3/4%	
3-month Interbank: 12 1/2-12 3/4%	
3-month eligible bills: 11 1/4-11 3/4%	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.00%	
Federal Funds: 7 1/2-7.75%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.02-7.38%	
(0.00%)	
Long bond 107 1/4-107 3/4%	
yield	

## 15% gain at Anglo American

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

Anglo American Corporation, the South African mining and industrial group, yesterday reported a 15 per cent increase in pretax profits to R897 million (£352 million). The final dividend has been raised by 15 cents to 100 cents, giving a full-year total of 135 cents, against 120 cents.

But the spread of income throughout the many parts of the Anglo empire indicates that the corporation's mining interests benefited chiefly from the weakness of the Rand, which converted export earnings into record profits.

So income from investments, which in Anglo parlance means the key associated companies such as Samancor, Rustenburg, Minorco, Anglo and the separate gold mines, rose from R511 million to R545 million. At the same time, trading profits from full subsidiaries such as Amcol grew by R67 million to R319 million.

Amcar (previously Sigma), however, lost money and there was an extraordinary debit of R63.3 million, representing the share of the loss incurred by Minorco from Charter Consolidated's problems with Cape Industries and Johnson Matthey and Engelhardt's losses from its closure of metal refineries.

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

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May 30, 1985







# TEMPUS

## Polly Peck courts City with simple virtue

made it clear that he considered the narrower measure of money more important than traditional gauges of monetary growth like  $\text{M3}$ .

But the analysts' forecasts are based on the weekly Bank of England Return for banking May, which shows notes in circulation down 1.6 per cent. This figure could be misleading, as the more grizzled London's monetary analysts pointed out.

The market is convinced that the authorities are without drawing notes at great speed for circulation and for exchanging coins in their place. But coins, of course, do not show up in the Bank's weekly Return.

Hence the actual outturn for May may well be far closer to unchanged, rather than a sharp fall.

Some of the analysts have gone further. They are touting the idea that the authorities should stage a rapid switch of all notes to coin, and make those coins exceptionally heavy into the bargain.

The analysts' anguish is understandable. The gilt market took off yet again yesterday for the wide blue yonder.

Shorits rose by about 74 points while longs put on more than 1/2 point. The Government Broker, ipervious to arcane speculation over the monetary dials, sold out all three taps issued on Friday.

But did he wrp up \$600 million in funding? The bulk of the market was convinced that the tap sales failed to constitute funding, firm monetary control purposes, because the Americans and the Japanese snapped up all three issues.

speculation obliges traders to take events in the US bond market into consideration when assessing prospects for gilts. Bonds are booming, on the back of the widespread belief in New York that the Fed will move shortly to cut the Fed funds rate yet again.

Faced with weakening oil prices, an easier gold price and the legacy of poor capital goods orders, bonds yesterday leaped by over a point.

## Stability under Unctad at an unrealistic price

The net effect of these factors is to exert a downward pressure indirectly on British interest rates. Higher sterling, and a one point gap between gilt yields and three-month interbank appear to forecast a bare rate cut.

Duncan. Mr. K. B. Weatherale has been elected vice president. Leeds Group: Mr. Robert Wade has become chairman and managing director. ITT Cannon: Mr. Neil Sutherland is the new managing director with effect from Monday. Thorn EMI Rentals Division: Mr. John Barnes is managing director from August 1. Merion Associates (Consultants): Mr. J. H. [unclear]

RECENT ISSUES		Closing Price
Abbeycrest 10p Ord (854)		104
Acad Property 25p Ord (172)		184½
Agave Communications 5p Ord (1254)		174
Allegiant Ind 25p Ord (130)		112½
Brit Aerospace 50p Ord (573) <del>Stop</del>		21
Brown C Cals 10p Ord (764)		88½
Deputy Ind 5p Ord (844)		81
Dominic Print Sciences 50p Ord (200)		290½
Electron House 10p Ord (1174)		123

Hornell & Marchant 10p Ord (300)	405-23
Howard Group 5p Ord (125)	103
Humblebird Technology 5p Ord (160)	320
Macropart 10p Ord (200)	35-2
Micrograph 5p Ord (120)	122-3
Norwood Holdings 10p Ord (150)	118-2
Perkins J. Meats 10p Ord (21)	69-1
Perkinson 10p Ord (110)	104-2
Prattwhitcliffe 5p Ord (100)	59-1
Shawcross 10p Ord (140)	69-1
Viewpoint 5p Ord (120)	103
Wayne Kern 10p Ord (130)	127
Wyke Group 10p Ord (85)	58
Unlisted	1,042
Securities, "by tender."	

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**Duncan.** Mr K. B. Weatherall has been elected vice president.

**Leeds Group:** Mr Robert Wade has become chairman and managing director.

**ITT Cannon:** Mr Neil Sutherland is the new managing

**RECENT ISSUES**

[illegible]

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## Danger lies in an angry operator

Insurance experts have identified a multi-million pound threat to Britain's business world - that hell hath no fury like a computer operator scorned.

The danger lies in small companies where no-one understands the computer except the person employed to operate it. He or she has at their fingertips the power to make or break the company if resentment builds up about pay.

One form of revenge is to explode a "logic bomb" - feeding false information which can totally distort the forecasts and records on which the company relies.

At the root of the problem is Britain's booming computer sales, which persuades companies to switch all their data from files to tape or disc. Often, the company can only just afford the system and an operator to work it.

Now a firm of London insurance brokers has come up with an insurance policy which includes cover for "malicious damage, distortion or corruption of data".

Mr Andrew Piddick, of Wigglesworth Insurance who devised the policy, said: "Research has shown that the damage done to companies by disgruntled and resentful employees can be very costly indeed, sometimes putting the company out of business."

The scenario is this: The girl has all her company's financial information and records at her fingertips and feels she knows more than the managing director. Yet she knows her salary does not reflect that.

"On a whim she decides to foul up the business by feeding false information into the computer. It is known as the sour grapes syndrome."

Mr Adrian Norman, of the data protection committee of the British Computer Society, said logic bombs posed a "real threat to business."

"The problem is that now there are employees with low levels of seniority who have access to information which previously was in the hands only of the financial director and other very senior executives. The situation has democratised white-collar crime," he said.



High fliers will be competing again this year in the Digital Schneider Trophy air race over the Solent on June 23 - two competitors are shown here in a race preview. The race, which was world famous in the 1920s and

1930s, was won outright by Britain in 1931 by the Supermarine S6B, forerunner of the Spitfire. Last year Digital Equipment (DEC) revived the event and this year are offering prizes totalling £10,000. In 1984 the race was

classed as the largest closed circuit air race, with more than 60 entries. With the closing date for entries this year being June 10, there are 53 declared entries to date although one of the veterans, the Spitfire, has withdrawn.

## Mainframe to mini... the boom is over

From Dennis Kneale, John Marconi and Randall Smith  
New York, AP

The once unthinkable is becoming irrefutable: the computer boom is over. And while computer makers blame short-term causes that may fade soon, important changes in the market pose sticky problems in the long run.

The major segments of the computer market - big mainframes, midrange minicomputers and workstations, and personal computers - all show signs of sluggishness even though they differ in price, function and customers. Some market researchers are lowering their projections for growth. The second quarter of this year is proving tough for some big makers, which may have to wait until the fourth quarter for a significant upturn.

Grant Bashee of Infocorp, a

market research firm, cites revenue and profit trends of the five largest producers: IBM, Digital, Hewlett-Packard, Burroughs and Apple. Their revenue grew by 17 to 19 per cent annually from 1981 to 1984 but rose only 6 per cent in the first quarter of 1985 from a year earlier, Bashee says. The companies' overall profit, which grew by 16 and 24 per cent annually in the years 1981 to '84 shrank by 16 per cent in the first quarter.

Despite slowdown, the computer business is expected to grow at a rate that the oil, motor and steel industries would envy. Gartner Group, the market researchers, estimates that the industry - including software and communications as well as hardware - grew at a 19 per cent average annual rate from 1981 to 1984. Gartner recently lowered its 1985 growth estimate to 14 per cent

from 17 per cent because of the poor first half.

Different market segments are slowing for many of the same short-term reasons. Among them are a switch to a new generation of machines, customer concern over the economy's lack-lustre growth and the strength of the US dollar.

But more fundamental forces are at work as well. An industry change to outright sales of big computers, instead of leasing, makes short-term results more volatile.

The popularity of office personal computers, a market that barely existed five years ago, has brought big changes. High-powered personal computers like IBM's PC AT rival the power of larger and more expensive minicomputers, posing a competitive threat.

"We're spending (on computers) at about a 25 per cent

lower rate than in previous years," says John Hammit, a vice-president of Fillabury, Minneapolis.

The computer business is at one of these rare periods when the industry is in transition, says William Krause, president of 3COM, an office computer networks company.

He contends that big customers are pausing to work out how to use the personal computers into bigger computers and he faults manufacturers for focusing more attention on a technical debate about wiring schemes than on solutions for their customers. "We've been having wire wars and the customers are fed up with all that."

They say that computer makers have contributed to their own troubles. A plethora of rumored or announced products which have not appeared, dubbed vaporware, has

Well there it is - all green and inviting, the cursor flashing expectantly and the cooling fans humming assiduously. The punter has become a user.

In the end it was compatibility that made the sale. Flushed from the dense blizzard of highly-tuned computer vocabulary, it seemed to offer a kind of certainty. After all, even after the countless clammy confrontations with salesmen and software and software girls, I had only the vaguest faith that I would even be able to use the thing once I had found somewhere to put the bits of expanded polystyrene packing. Given such a haunting lack of confidence, some relationship to the big warm bosom of IBM seemed sort of essential.

Unfortunately the legendary PC itself is a clumsy beast - big and ugly in its confidence, far beyond the caring whether it looks pretty or not. It is also not cheap, although lately discounted prices have been dropping as the announcement of its successor approaches. But really there was no contest once the masterpieces of Ettore Sottsass had been spotted.

Sottsass designs for Olivetti. Specifically, he designed the M24 PC and the M21 portable. The latter is a modern classic; it

## USER HOSTILE

by Brian Appleyard



exudes calm, sensible design, an effect lightened by exquisite use of materials and colours. I almost bought the portable on the basis that it was the next best thing to the Matisse I cannot yet quite afford.

But hundreds of hours of writing made the larger screen essential so it was the M24, not quite such a gem but still the best looking PC around. There seemed also to be quite a number of technical justifications but I was past caring. I wanted the final decision to be capricious.

But as we all know, that is only half the battle. Next comes the software and the printer. When it comes to word processing, every computer dealer appears to say Wordstar in his sleep. If they had an 'escape' or 'help' key in their foreheads, pressing it would probably make them talk in Wordstar codes.

Unfortunately friendliness is not its long suit. Even its staunchest defenders admit it speaks a language all its own and, as Wittgenstein was at pains to point out, languages are forms of life. On balance I think I am too young to have to eke out the rest of my days as a piece of software.

Instead I went for MultiMate which has proved relatively straightforward. Buying it, however, was another matter. For just as my decision was made, the MultiMate International Corporation brought out a new version. Discounts vanished overnight and my

software bill seemed about to double. The old MultiMate had apparently been sold out everywhere and the new one, apart from being expensive because nobody was discounting, had features which I did not really need. Luckily I found an old edition at a price only marginally above the discounted level advertised.

The printer was to have been a Canon PW 1080A but I allowed a dealer to talk me in to a Smith Corona D200 which also combined draft and Near Letter Quality modes. NLQ evaded me, however, until a computer-literate neighbour worked out the code. The Smith-Corona instructions are quite abysmal, defying rational analysis at every stage. On this front both Olivetti and MultiMate were reasonable, if a little unnecessarily complex in organization. MultiMate, for example, even has instructions for its instructions.

Oh, and I bought *Flight Simulator* and *Fitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The other advantage of compatibility is that IBM has all the best games. These two are threatening to destroy the equilibrium of the household and render me incapable of consecutive thought.

Inevitably the initial feeling is that it has all been a terrible mistake. Hours flit by as I plough through the telephone directories of instructions. It seems it will never become what it must - second nature. But the breakthrough came when I found myself idly sitting down at the keyboard in an odd moment to create an ideas file for one book I am writing. It was the computer that made me do this; without it I could not have stood the thought of generating more paper.

What also came to me in that moment was that Apple has made a mistake. The whole user-friendly ideology is misguided. Computers are different from other things; they only do things differently and only by accepting this can you find out what they are capable of. An excess of user amiability might actually reduce one's chances of accepting what it can offer. We do not, for example, expect digital watches to be somehow related to their circular ancestors.

The shuffling gait and the staring eyes are just around the corner.

# PHILIPS

## Get things going with the P2000 C



The Philips portable computer P2000C can really lift your job, business or profession. Available in 16 and 8 bit, it offers all the RAM you want. From 64K right up to 512K, complete with a separate 32K for the video. You've also a disk capacity of up to two 640K floppies and a hard disk, which can be built-in if preferred.

CP/M, p-System and in the 16-bit version, MS-DOS, provide software for every business task. And you've a wide range of interfaces to suit your needs. Including serial printer, external floppy drives, slave monitor, data communication, hard disk and IEC/IEEE.

The 9" screen produces high-resolution graphics and is glare-free. And the keyboard is ergonomically designed.

A range of models is available - all with free software - at very reasonable prices. For example, a P2010 with CP/M and software costs £995 plus VAT. And the P2009 with CP/M and built-in hard disk is available for just £2,995 plus VAT. Ask your dealer for details. Or post the coupon today.

Better still, why not see us on Stand 661/675 at the Business Computer Show, Earls Court, London. We're there from 4th to 6th June 1985.



### The affordable portable.

Please do not include VAT.  
CP/M is a trademark of Digital Research Inc.  
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30 Guildford Street, Chertsey, Surrey KT16 9BQ.  
Telephone: (09328) 68815.

Please send me more information on the Philips P2000C.

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Address

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TT 4/6



The Acorn B+	The Apricot F1e
1970s technology	1980s technology
8-bit processor	16-bit processor
64k memory	256k memory
100k optional disk	315k integral disk
72 key keyboard	92 key keyboard
Unique operating system	MS-DOS industry standard operating system
Free software - Basic	Free software - Activity, Sketch, Diary, GW Basic, IBM PC Emulator, Communications
£606*	£595*

# Obviously, apricots are in a class of their own.

Many schools are beginning to learn a significant lesson. Namely that two bytes are better than one.

A quick glance at our comparison above shows that the Acorn B+ has only 8-bits to play with.

This pales by comparison with the professional, 16-bit, Apricot F1e.

A computer that operates in exactly the same way as all leading computers in the business world today.

The Acorn micro delivers a puny 64k of memory compared to the F1e's 256k. This is expandable, with the addition of an expansion board, to 768k.

What is more, the Apricot computer

is not a childish, cassette-based system.

Ours has a built-in, 315k, 3.5" disk drive system which is rapidly becoming today's business standard.

## 92 KEYS TO SUCCESS

The Apricot F1e is top of its class in having a full 92 keys on the board, which includes a numeric keypad.

Both the keyboard and the optional mouse are cordless, operating the monitor by infra-red remote control.

Which happily brings us to the quality of the crisp, colour image that saves young eyes from strain.

The Apricot F1e can even use your existing RGB monitors.

Because it operates on the professional MS-DOS and CP/M standards you gain access to the largest published library of software in the UK.

Not only that, but for just £30+VAT our B-TRAN convertor will enable you to run almost any of your BBC Basic software on the Apricot.

All this for a brand new incredibly low price of £595\*

which, given what you get for the money, puts it in a class of its own.

 **apricot F1e**

\*PRICES QUOTED INCLUDE ALL FEATURES DETAILED ABOVE BUT EXCLUDE MONITOR AND VAT. FOR MORE INFORMATION EITHER CALL US DIRECT ON FREEPHONE APRICOT (VIA THE OPERATOR) OR WRITE TO APRICOT UK LTD., FREEPOST, HALESOWEN, WEST MIDLANDS B63 1BR.



## Time to stop playing games

By Andrew Chisholm

We are often told that Britain has the world's highest proportion of microcomputers in the home and that our schools are comparatively well-off for hardware and software.

Some government ministers are fond of telling us that this demonstrates widespread "computer literacy" and that the rising generation is poised, with the new added ingredient, entrepreneurial flair to take Britain forward as a major hi-tech nation.

At the same time the doubting voices have grown. What are these electronic boxes being used for? In most homes it would be safe to say they are used for games, with a certain amount of introductory basic programming. On the education side, while things have improved, too much software has been little more than electronic page-turning, designed to induce reluctant schoolchildren to take more of an interest in letters.

People are already beginning to say that the home computer will become all but extinct, except for the out-and-out games machines. Manufacturers are starting to edge up-market, to reach towards what they fondly hope is an untapped demand for low-cost business machines running word-processing and accounts packages. The home computer is dead, long live the personal microcomputer.

If this is true, and whatever the hopes of the manufacturers, it might suggest that few people are going to see the need for a personal microcomputer in the home in future.

There is, however, another possibility. In this country there is a unique opportunity to capitalise on the fact that we have a large stock of computers in the home and in educational establishments, and a pool of potential replacement purchases if people could be convinced of genuine uses for the new systems.

There is the scope to launch a new style of computer literacy programme, this time focused on opening up the creative possibilities afforded by the new technology.

In the future a large part of our population is going to be involved with the business of processing and handling information.

There is the possibility of a different approach to using microcomputers, in education. Teaching subjects as varied as chemistry and modern studies can become more project-based throughout the educational system.

In the work environment the microcomputer should give business and professional people an opportunity to enhance the skills of report writing and preparing proposals and presentations.

At the moment the UK economy is growing only through the service sector and all the signs are that the switch from manufacturing to service will accelerate. The part of this sector with the highest contribution to national added value and the greatest potential contribution to exports is that concerned with handling information, ideas and data of all kinds.

The author is a project consultant with Information Transfer, of Cambridge.

## The macro problems of selling a micro

By Geoff Wheelwright

Old micros don't die; they just decline drastically in price, sometimes so quickly that the machines become almost worthless. It is for this reason that at the moment any trade in second-hand computers is likely to be very limited.

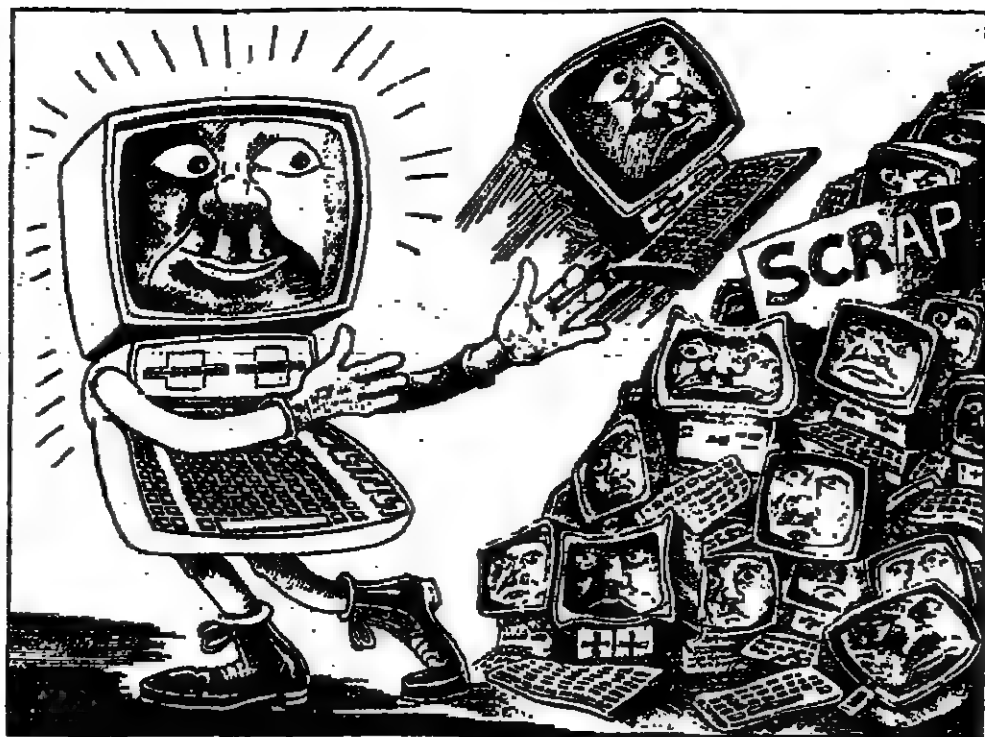
Consider, for example, an ad which reads: "Wanted: Buyer for a British micro purchased only 18 months ago. Mint condition, one owner. Business software included in price. Paid more than £3,000. Will sell for £2,000 or nearest offer."

The owner is most unlikely to get anywhere near what is asked and an even worse deal if they try to trade the machine in for a new model. A British micro purchased two years ago is likely to be based on "old" technology and will almost certainly not run the wide base of business software developed for the popular IBM PC and Apple II computers.

### Too early for a UK second-hand business

And that's not all. If the manufacturer of the said machine is still in business - which is by no means a certainty - it will almost certainly have dropped the price of the machine by between a third and a half of what it was two years ago.

All this is not to say that a healthy, second-hand business micro industry will not emerge in the UK - but just not yet.



Prices on popular IBM PC-compatible machines (computers which can use software and hardware add-ons developed for the IBM PC computer) are still dropping and currently sit just above the £1,000 mark for a basic single-disk model. This leaves little room for people with used PCs purchased at more than twice that price 18 months ago.

But as the less-competitive

companies are weeded out of the IBM-compatible market and prices on this industry-standard design stabilize, it should become reasonable for people to begin selling second-hand computer equipment. The prices however, of those second-hand machines will inevitably be at about the current level of new "up-market" home computers - between £400 and £600.

Also likely to develop in conjunction with this second-hand computer market is an independent service and repair industry for micros - which will "recondition" old machines and give an "MOT" style seal of approval to them. Companies currently involved in business machine leasing are the likely candidates to start such services as they already require on-the-spot repairs for their clients.

As well as computer servicing, the add-ons or peripherals for those used machines will also need repairs. And it's likely that service contracts will have to be developed for whole systems, including computer printers, screens and disk (storage) systems.

After all, there's no point in having your service for your micro available on a 24-hour call-out if your printer takes two weeks to repair in the midst of churning out some crucial reports. It would be like having a car warranty which didn't cover repairs to the gearbox.

### Used machines as high-tech doorstops

There will need, however, to be some changes of attitude among service companies, which currently charge an annual percentage of purchase price for maintenance contracts.

If, however, used equipment is purchased - and probably at a cost substantially lower than would be paid for that same equipment new - then a percentage based on purchase cost becomes unworkable and unprofitable for the servicing company. But until business computers stop falling in price, all this will largely remain in the future and used computers will remain high-tech doorstops.

## Repairs are put on a national basis

By Martin Banks

Would the average user of a personal computer care desperately if the machine broke down and was out of commission for a day or two? If the user owns a home computer the answer is probably no, because it would be what he or she always suspected might happen. But if it involves a business machine, the answer will be increasingly, yes.

Service and maintenance of personal computer systems has always been something of a Cinderella in the business. Most people have been much more interested in the status of either manufacturing, or owning one of the latest things in technology. If it went wrong that was all right, one just went out and bought the next latest thing.

Now, however, times are changing. The personal computer is starting to be used in business as an essential tool. This means that the beast should work and work long and hard hours. Today, a broken computer is not just a discarded and useless status symbol. It is a sizeable lump of investment that is not earning its keep and probably causing a bottleneck in other operations as well.

Yet, despite this, the number of organized national maintenance services that exist for the personal computer is fairly small. Most serious dealers have at least some capability to hand, either in their own repair department or through the local operation. These can, however,

be of variable quality and, often because they are small operations, not always available when a user actually requires them.

Now a dealer chain has joined a system and peripherals manufacturer to form a nationwide service operation. In practice they are part of the same group, the Information Technology Division of Kode International. This comprises Kode, Comart, Xitan, and the Byte Shop chain. It also includes KSL, Kode's existing service company, plus Micro-Serve, the operation set up by Comart to service its and Byte Shop's systems.

The division's managing director, John Lamb, has made the logical decision to bring these service elements together into a company with more than 130 engineers around the country. The move has been made for more reasons than administrative tidiness, however.

In practice, KSL will be concentrating its efforts on business generated by Kode, Comart and the Byte Shop, though it is already working for other dealers where, for example, they sell Comart kit. Lamb would consider working for other dealer chains as well.

For the one-off personal computer user with no maintenance contract there is still a problem, although KSL might be willing to take on the business if it is close to an existing service site.

## Value is the aim of firm's new chief

Commodore UK is expected to announce new pricing deals in its home computers this week.

The best-selling Commodore 64 computer is to be sold for £199 with a cassette recorder and games program and is the first in a series of anticipated deals in the wake of Commodore's recent appointment of a more "marketing oriented" UK managing director Mr Nick Bessey.

In his execution of that policy, the Commodore chief is also expected to bundle products with the company's all-in-one "Plus-Four" home computers at a special price.

The Plus-Four, which was halved in price earlier this year, will now be sold as part of a business pack which will include a disc drive, computer printer and non-Commodore integrated business software from Imper. This package will sell for £449 and marks the first time Commodore has sold someone else's business software with the computer. Commodore spokesmen admit that they had included Imper's financial spreadsheet because of the adverse reaction to the Plus-Four's own software.

The Plus-Four with disc drive, printer and business software should be a far more competitive product - as its major competitors from Sinclair and Amstrad also include their own storage systems and/or business software built into the basic price. But "professional" home computers have moved slowly in the past year and Commodore will have an uphill battle in selling the Plus-Four - even as a business pack.

I remember the night Tom told me. Calmly announced he'd found something no-one else could give him. Answering his deepest needs.

Plus a few he hadn't realised he'd had.

The new Triumph Adler Alphatronic micro-computer had arrived in Tom's life. And it was to have a profound affect on our relationship.

### Sleepless anguish.

For months, he'd suffered the sleepless anguish of not knowing which way to turn.

After all, choosing a micro for one's business is a difficult and confusing affair.



## Things are better since my husband started sleeping with his micro-computer

"I'm so scared," he confessed one morning at three o'clock, "of buying some trendy machine that'll date quickly, or fail to run the programs I need."

But now, he'd been introduced to the new Alphatronic. And it had been love at first byte.

### Not like the others.

"It isn't just a copy of all the others," he enthused. "It's faster and better thanks to one of the first Intel 80186 processors. With a capacity large enough to easily accommodate my expansion plans."

"Listen, darling," he whispered, excitedly, "whereas others take up to two minutes to warm up, that powerful, 16-bit chip means the Alphatronic is ready to use in seconds. Then it goes on reacting faster to all your instructions."

"The characters are all large, clearly readable, with pin-sharp resolution. Glowing in a really restful amber colour."

He was in raptures. I was so happy for him.

### Beautiful ash-blonde.

"Is this new love of yours very beautiful?" I asked. "Ash-blonde, with auburn details," he replied. "And ergonomically designed. So, it isn't just user-friendly, it's more user-affectionate."

This was Tom's sweet way of saying how the Alphatronic is designed around the user's needs. The keyboard, for example, is structured to make everything totally accessible.

"But then, it's the sort of keyboard sophistication you'd expect from people as experienced as Triumph Adler. Those German designers certainly know about marrying form to function. I mean, look at Audi cars."

For a moment, I thought he'd gone off at one of his tangents, but then he told me that

Triumph Adler are, indeed, part of the VW-Audi organisation.

### All of eighteen.

With a full eighteen function keys where others offer only ten, the Alphatronic will certainly make life easier by being much less complicated to operate.

Tom says it's even gone as far as to use separate cursor control and numeric key pads.

Though, I must admit, he lost me there.

"Then there's the Alpha Key," he shouted from the shower "It means that, with a single key stroke, you can suspend any program and use the machine as a typewriter, with everything you type appearing on the screen."

"And the wrist-rest," he gasped, as he did his sit-ups. "I find it such a sympathetic thought."

"In fact, I'm amazed it hasn't occurred to anyone else."

"So now," he said, as he snuggled down beside me, "it'll be really easy to keep all my accounts up to date and accurately control my stock levels. What's more, all my typing will be automated."

"And I can relax, because I've found the perfect micro for my needs at last."

He was dozing already. But just before he dropped off, he murmured, "IBM compatible." And sighed, blissfully.

It's so nice to have my husband sleeping with me again.

For a free, full-colour brochure on the new Alphatronics simply send your business card or letterhead to:

TRIUMPH ADLER (UK) LTD, FREEPOST, LONDON EC1B 1AB. TELEPHONE: 01-250 1217.

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You won't lose any sleep over us.



## Viewdata is fading from the picture

Viewdata systems are showing their age. Five years ago it looked like electronic-information systems such as Britain's Prestel and Canada's Telidon would revolutionize the way people got their information, but today only a dedicated band finds the system useful.

Prestel has more than 50,000 users and is still growing - partly because of the development of software and hardware which now allows microcomputers to access the system. Prestel's comparative success in the viewdata world has been aided by the fact that it was part of a government-owned monopoly and that a centralized government was in charge of giving all the approvals.

In North America, where some smaller phone companies still survive and provincial or state governments share control of the telecommunications systems with a national government, developing and marketing a viewdata standard has not been so easy. Nowhere has this problem been more acutely felt than in Canada, which recently joined forces with the Japanese to help revive the flagging fortunes of Telidon.

Three years ago Telidon was seen as the logical successor to Prestel because it offered high-resolution graphics, more colours and generally more sophisticated software. But despite these advantages, Telidon was expensive - with Canadians having to pay upwards of \$1,000 (£850) for a Telidon terminal.

Telidon also did not have much information to offer -

because information providers would not join the service unless they felt there was a big enough user base. Of course, the lack of information providers kept the users away - the vicious circle of viewdata long suffered by Prestel.

Despite its bad showing in Canada, the Japanese have shown great interest in Telidon, which they hope will provide high enough screen resolution to be able to show Japanese characters without using high-speed phone lines. This interest recently resulted in D.C. Tel's Microtel division signing contracts worth \$10 million (Canadian) to market videotex services in Japan.

The Japanese want to integrate Telidon with their own Captain Videotex system, developed by Nippon Telegraph and Telephone. Captain easily handles the high-resolution necessary for the display of Japanese characters, but requires dedicated high-speed phone lines to do it. The Canadians and Japanese are hoping their efforts will lead to development of a joint world standard of alphabetic formats for videotex/viewdata.

But recent moves in the US to establish a viewdata standard quite separate and apart from Telidon, Prestel and Captain could scotch any hopes of a non-American world standard. The US is slowly inching its way towards such a standard, with a keen eye to the problems everyone else has had. Only time will tell how much US viewdata developers have learned from everyone else's mistakes.



## COMPUTER APPOINTMENTS

01-837 1350

## CUSTOMER SERVICES MANAGER

The Microsystems support group is a small dynamic operating unit within the Courtauld's group which has a requirement for a Customer Services Manager. The position is based in Coventry serving clients throughout the UK.

The Group's work is challenging; it encompasses systems analysis and design, the selection, development, marketing and support of micro hardware and software as well as the provision of appropriate services and back up for users.

The successful candidate will probably be a graduate or equivalent aged 22-32, with some management experience including sales and customer liaison, who has a knowledge of the micro computers supplied by micro systems support group. The job will involve liaison with existing and potential customers based inside and outside the Courtauld's Group as well as responsibility for a comprehensive administrative service. A willingness to become totally committed to a small business environment is essential.

An attractive salary and benefits package will be offered commensurate with experience and qualifications. The right candidate will be aware of the longer term prospects in this area of work.

Please write with full CV to:

The HR Personnel Manager,  
Courtauld's plc,  
PO Box 16,  
Coventry CV4 5AE.

## Why the auto office is moving on

## COMPUTER BRIEFING

One could be forgiven for thinking that office automation is so far not a great economic success given the careful choice of words in a report by the Department of Trade and Industry on six pilot installations. The benefits are described as "somewhat unconvincing to those accustomed to more conventional cost justification".

But all six pilots, which included the Cabinet Office, the GLC, two councils and the DTI itself, are to continue with office automation though two are to change suppliers.

The annual cost of joining the electronic office is estimated as ranging from £2,200 per workstation to £5,000. On the connection between office automation and job losses the report states "Direct savings were not widely sought and were less widely achieved, although some sites did reduce staff levels by amounts and in ways which they are reluctant to discuss".

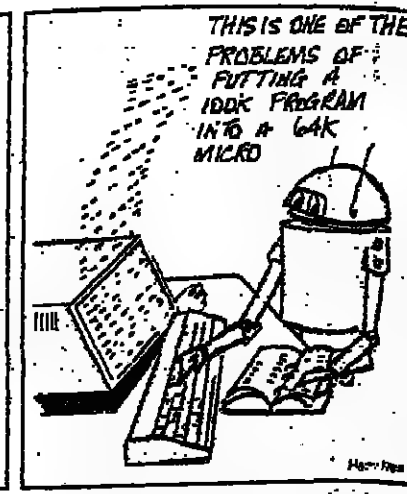
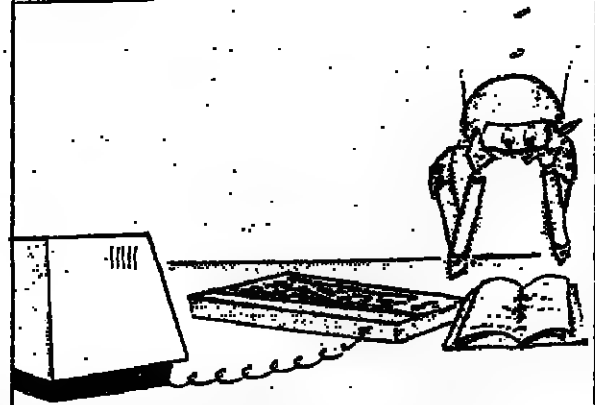
Eastman Kodak is continuing its move into the information management side of the computer

Industry with the announcement of an electronic publishing system, although it will not go on sale until next year. The system, Kodak EktaPrint, will merge text, graphics and artwork and be on near-typeset quality says the company. Priced at about \$50,000 it will include computer terminals, scanners for graphics and a laser printer and will be aimed at ordinary offices. Kodak has also announced an image management system which takes information stored on microfilm and transmits it to computers.

While the world still holds its breath for Microsoft's picture based windows, a German software house, Bongartz and Schmidt Datentechnik has just launched its own window-driven system for personal computers.

One product, Open Window, is a development tool aimed at other software companies to use to

## A606



Integrate different packages and present them all with an easy-to-use window system; Text Ace Window is a word processing package including diary, calculator and mailing lists. Data from any of the applications can be lifted directly into the word processing text.

A small Edmonton, Western Canada research and development company, is to unveil the Myrias 4000 - a supercomputer with a \$2.12 million price tag. So far such supercomputers have been the province of the US and Japan. Myrias Research Corporation, whose principals include an economist, an astrophysicist and a number of computer specialists, is targeting its first production for

next year. Designed as a powerful "number crunching" tool for use in areas such as seismograph analysis, meteorology and drug design, where large amounts of data must be assimilated in a short time, the supercomputer will feature a "significant breakthrough" in software, according to Kenneth Gordon, the company president. Martin Walker, head of applications research, described the unit as a parallel computer "with some important refinements. It is able to perform a large number of different tasks simultaneously. All other computers have to execute instructions in the program sequentially whereas the Myrias can execute different combinations

of instructions at the same time." US and Japanese computer manufacturers could exploit considerable untapped markets if they joined forces in marketing compatible equipment, according to Chris Christensen of hi-tech consultancy the Yankee Group. This is particularly true in education, where schools use computers as learning aids for students, says Mr Christensen. He adds: "We've found that the major reason parents buy computers for students is school compatibility, not network compatibility." I don't think any Japanese company has the ability to do this on its own, but maybe with another firm, for example Tandy, there's a

very real possibility of a market," he says.

Of the major home computer manufacturers, Tandy appears to be the one most interested in such a link-up, he said. Mr Christensen said older US computer manufacturers such as Burroughs, Univac, National Cash Register, Control Data and Honeywell are facing a strong challenge from younger firms. He said five up-and-coming computer makers - Convergent Technology, Hewlett-Packard, Digital Equipment, Texas Instruments and Wang Laboratories - are trying to emerge as the new industry standard.

"The latter five, however, are having a really tough time," Mr Christensen said.

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## UK events

London Business Computer Week (Incorporating Office Automation Show and Software 85), today until Thursday, Earls Court, London SW5 (01-843 8040).

Sixth Commodore Computer Show, June 7-9, Novotel, Hammer-smith, London W6 (01-834 4066).

DEC Village, June 10-11, Solihull Conference and Banqueting Centre, Solihull, West Midlands. Exhibition and seminars (0822) 38414.

Communix 85, June 12-14, Olympia 2, London. For Unix users (01-837 3699).

22 Microfair, June 22, New Horticultural Hall, Graycoat Street, London SW1. For users of Sinclair machines (01-801 8172).

Networks 85, June 25-27, Wembley Conference Centre, London (01-808 4488).

PC User Show, July 2-4, Olympia 2, London. For users of IBM PCs and PC compatibles (01-837 3699).

## Overseas

CBS Computer Show, June 13-18, Cologne, West Germany (010 49 221 8211).

Computer Asia, August 14-17, World Trade Centre, Singapore (01-488 1951).

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## Property

## Company

## Shipping

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### LATE AVAILABILITY

VILLA/TAVERNA HOLIDAYS FROM GAT & MAN

ABTA 9 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LL

#### FOR SALE

#### RESISTA CARPETS

Super Meridian velvet pile, 3 yr guarantee + 14 plain shades. Only £4.95 sq yd + vat. 80% wool. Various other styles available. Tel: 01-837 5335 or 3311

#### DOMESTIC AND CATERING SITUATIONS

EXPERIENCED Chef/Cook required to five and travel agent. Tel: 01-837 5335 or 3311

#### THE VERY BEST

Letting/landlords to let. If you are letting or wanting good property in the London area, we have the best. Tel: 01-837 5335 or 3311

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### Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

**Haspigh's Ancient airs and dances: Suite No. 2 (19th century)**

**Radio 2**

On medium wave, 790.0 VHF stereo.  
News on the hour. News at 5.30am,  
6.30, 7.30 and 8.30. 4.00am Colin Berry;  
1.00 Ray Moore; 10.30 Jimmy Young;  
1.05 Sports Desk; 2.05 David Jacobson; 2.52  
Sports Desk; 2.55 Martin Handforth;  
3.02 John Dunn; 4.05 David Hamilton;  
4.02 John Dunn introducing 6.45 Sport  
and Classified results (MF) only. The  
Cricket Scoreboard, 8.15, 7.30  
The Football Results Show. Monday

focuses on Judy Garland, 8.00 BBC  
Radio Orchestra, presented by Bill  
Rennett, 9.55 Sports Desk, 10.00  
BBC News, David Dimbleby, 10.15  
Dance, 10.30 Town and Country Quiz  
Monmouth, Wexsex and Wales  
(Townswomen's Guide v Powys and  
Brookneck Women's Institute) 11.00  
Bernard Lee presents Round Midnight  
(stars from midnight), 1.00 Bill Rennett  
presents Nightlight, 3.0-4.0 Night Owls, 7.00

## Radio 1

On medium wave, false VHF stereo.  
News on the half hour from 6.50am until  
11.00pm and 12.15pm. 7.00am-7.30am  
Adrian John, 7.30 Mike Read, 8.00  
Simon Bates, 12.00 Gary Davies and  
12.15 News, 2.30 Mark Gyles, 3.00  
Bruno Brookes in the 5.30-6.00pm slot,  
Janice Long, 10.00-12.00 John Peel.

## WORLD SERVICE

8.00am Newsweek, 8.30 The Colts, 9.00  
The Beatles, 9.30 The Beatles, 10.00

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**ULSTER** As London except: starts 9.55-9.50 *The Day Ahead*. 1.20-1.30 *Landscape*. 3.30 *The Nature of Things*. 3.58-4.00 *Ulster Now*. 6.00 *Summer Edition*. 6.00-6.05 *Grassroots*. 8.00-8.05 *After 7*. 11.20-11.30 *News*. 12.25 *News*.

**GRANADA** As London except: 1.20pm-1.30pm *Granada Reports News*. 3.00 *The Glass Box*. 3.30-4.00 *Gambit*. 8.30 *This is your right to Groceries*. 9.50-7.00 *Grade Reports*. 8.00-8.50 *Falcon Crest*. 11.30 *Shena Estate* - *Lvs*. 12.05am

**BORDER** As London except: 1.20pm-1.50pm *Border News*, 3.30-4.00 *The Proctors*, 8.00 *Lookaround Tuesday*, 8.30-9.00 *Crossroads*, 8.00-9.00 *Hart to Hart*, 11.15 *News of the Last Week* (see Ritchie), 12.00 *News*, 12.30pm *Close*.

**HTV WEST** As London except: starts, 9.25-9.30 *HTV News*, 1.29-1.30 *HTV News*, 3.30-3.30 *Now You See It*, 6.00 *HTV News*, 6.35-7.00 *News of the Last Week* (see Ritchie), 11.30 *The Last Outlaw*, 12.30pm *Weather*, *Close*.

**HTV WALES** As HTV WEST except: 6.00-6.35 *News*.

**TVS** As London except: starts 9.25-9.30 *TVS Outlook*, 1.30 *TVS News*, 2.10-2.30 *A Country Practice*, 5.12-5.45 *TVS News headlines*, *Some 500 Members*, 5.45 *Cost to Cost*, 6.25-6.50 *News*, 6.35-7.00 *Crossroads*, 8.00-9.00 *Quincy*, 11.30 *The*

# ENTERTAINMENTS

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also on page 30.

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